Ross Dowson archives – correspondence -- Year 1965

01_13 Letter to Ernie (T.), Vancouver, re: deadline for your article; Alan (Harris) married in Britain

02_05 Letter to Ernie, Vancouver, re: meeting with WML member Roger Perkins; re Ernie leaving BC and Alan & Connie replacing him

02_05B Dear George (Novack?), the *Militant* (SWP, USA): re quoting Toronto's struck papers

02_16 Letter to Jean (R.), Vancouver, re: books and periodicals in bookstore

02_16B Letter to Ernie, Vancouver, re: his leaving Vancouver, attending World Youth Festival in Algeria; Alan & Connie's plans

03_09 Letter to Alan (E) Vancouver, re: Ernie's leaving; his proposal that Ross go West for a few months; personnel in Toronto; *Vanguard* coverage

03_11 Letter to Alan and Connie (Harris, GB), re: broadening scope Alexander (Defense) Cttee internationally

03_11B Letter to Tom Kerry, SWP, New York) re Alexander (Defense) Committee

3_19 Letter to Jeff, Newfoundland, re: local youth activity in Selma solidarity (SNCC & blacks in USA); re his study of Lenin; getting socialist ideas on campus; Portuguese seamen's views

04_04 Letter to Ernie (T., Vancouver), re: busy constructing new HQ in Toronto; difficulties with Alexander Defense Cttee.; overload with *Vanguard* editorship but need twice monthly paper; convention coming up; Alan (Harris under attack by British group)

04_06 Letter to Ernie: re question of Alan full-time in BC, the Maoist Canada-China Cttee.; new Cuba tours; split in Toronto peace movement; trade union document

04_12 Letter to Bernard Bloom, U of A., Edmonton AB: Your letter popularizing Marxism, and your critics

04_26 +(Handwritten) letter to Reg (Bullock), Vancouver: in hospital with hernia; new central location for Toronto hall & bookstore;

05_06 Letter to Ernie, Vancouver, re: Alexander Defense work; literary affair at the new movement bookstore in Yorkville

05_17	Letter to Jean (R.), Vancouver, re: new HQ and store in Toronto underway; NDP fraction work
05_17B	Letter to Dick (F., Montreal) re success of Alexander Defence cttee. or LSA social cultural at Toronto HQ
05_21	Letter to Ernie, Vancouver, re: report of Alexander Defence meeting; on his trip to Algeria; the problem of staffing the Vancouver branch.
06_22	+Letter to Ruth and Reg (Bullock), re: our new Toronto address, behind the cancellation of the Cuban tour; upcoming convention
06_23	Letter to Ernie, Vancouver, re: tight personnel situation in Toronto; crisis with Pat (Mitchell/Schulz) going off staff; (RD) agrees with tone of letter on Cuban tour cancellation; the difficulties facing the Cubans faced with the Sino-Soviet dispute; Malcolm (Bruce's) resignation
07_05	Letter to Ruth (Bullock), Vancouver: re her letter to NDP to explain the expulsions; left will be weak at the next convention, left youth being re-admitted into the NDP; PC agreement on this; next tour arrangements
07_08	Letter to the Trailblazers (tour): no word or demand for money; is books stock adequate? Toronto branch work; quiz
07_13	Letter to Art Grey, Alice Arm, BC; Socialist Caucus active at (Federal) NDP convention, activity of Youth in SC; your reading material; worsening situation in Vietnam
07_23	Letter to Dear Ruth (Bullock), Vancouver BC: re Malcolm (Bruce) writing for PWM and membership status in LSA; no action to be taken; Malcolm's parrots Healy on NDP
07_26	Letter to the Roving Branch (tour), Comrades, re: progress of national tour, literature sent
08_00	Letter to national tour members Lyle S., Peter (Schultz), Hans (M), Alex (?) & Bill (L.): re personnel; Peter's report
08_06	Letter to Maryln and Bob (R., Montreal?), re: not being able to meet with them; progress of the tour; the *New Democrat* moves against the Socialist Caucus
08_06B	Letter to Alan (E., Vancouver), re: articles on BC, right-wing moves against Socialist Caucus in ON

08_09 Letter to the McDonnells, Cascade BC; the tour`s visit; our move to Cumberland Street and movement news

008_14 Letter to Roving Branch (tour), Comrades, re: papers missed at Timmins being forwarded; status of film on Vietnam; how to get a projector; our attitude towards Cuban statement on cancellation of the tour and question of dealing with differences within the Revolution; decision to set the record right and reaffirm support for Cuba; look for Huberman article on Cuba in *The Nation* citing disapproval in Cuba of suppressing dissident opinion; a gala $2.50 dinner paid for by sister (Lois)

08_17 +Communication to Montreal, the LSO from the Political Committee LSA: disappointed in the failure of *La Lutte Ouvrière* to appear; the primary need for a public organ, the top priority of our tendency, the intellectual nature of *parti pris*

08_24 Letter to Arch Callahan, re: distribution of leaflet to Portuguese

08_26 Letter to Roving Branch (tour); Comrades: Ernie (T.) to join tour; work on the tour back; slow down going through BC, other films on Vietnam

08_30 Letter to Arch (Callaghan) Tor Bay, Nfld, re: distribution of the Havana Declaration and a Portuguese PAF manifesto; possible opposition from the Smallwood government; how best to distribute copies to the fishermen

09_01 Letter to Arch Callaghan, re: shipment of leaflets for distribution

09_02 Letter to Roving Branch (tour) in Calgary, re received money and subs, sending copies of *Vanguard*

09_02B Letter to Harry (S), en route to Vancouver: re his birthday, congratulations to the tour despite difficulties

09_07 Letter to(tour) Comrades, re: itinerary & mailing to tour, Peter (Schultz) comes home from tour; renovations to (youth) house, facing another youth purge from NDY, center organizing

09_13 Letter to Comrade Trailblazers 1965, re: your report a hit in Toronto; branch conference and elections; sending winter wear to Trail BC, mass runs of *Vanguard* for coming elections

09_13B Letter to Dear Alan (E.), Vancouver, re: Farrell Dobbs on Seattle tour with a private visit to Vancouver, 100 subs from Calgary

09_20 Letter to Dick (F., Montreal?), re: report of antiwar meeting; youth conference

09_21 Letter to Trailblazers, Ernie, re: on selling the youth paper (YSF) and *Vanguard*, emphasizing some books for the tour, personnel activity in Toronto; "our print shop," working the Varityper

09_24 Letter to Dear Alan (E.), Vancouver, re: sending back his article for revision (on Maoist attitude to NDP)

09_27 Letter to Cliff Gunter, re: report of national tour; searching for a newer FNL film on Vietnam if he can find one

10_02 Letters to Trailblazers, re: PMW films Timmins (ON), searching for Vietnam film for showings

10_12 Letter to Trailblazers, roving Branch LSA, Comrades, re: sending Vanguard tour to Edmonton for return trip, comrade removed from Vietnam teach-in microphone; sell 200 copies of YSF; distribution of 20,000 leaflets; Edmonton contacts

10_18 Letter to Roving Branch, Dear Comrades: literature airmailed to Regina; anti-Vietnam war actions in Toronto

10_23 Letter to Roving Branch, Comrades, re: hoping Lyle leaving tour can helping Toronto election campaign, returned shipment of Vanguards, teach-in articles not published in US, Toronto socials, Teamsters wildcat developments and our comrades

10_23B Letter to Alan (E.), Vancouver, re: Vancouver branch contacts & members, Tabata to speak in BC?; document preparation for the (LSA) convention next Easter; increased frequency of *Vanguard*

10_27 Letter to Alan (E., Vancouver), re: sending latest *Vanguard*

10_27B Letter to Monika Triest, Fredericton NB, re: forwarding sample of journal for your interest in the movement

11_01 Letter to Alan (E.), Vancouver, re: PWM assault on Phil (Courneyeur); action sending them a formal note of protest; evaluation of PWM action; avoid a public protest

11_06 Letter to George (---?), London ON, re: ex-SLL (GB) leader Tom Kemp now a prof there, try to contact him

11_08 Letter to Mantie Kariyawsam, Ottawa, Dear Friend, in contact with LSSP in Ceylon

11_15	Letter to Alan (E.), Vancouver, re: John (S) spoke at OFL on Vietnam war, need BC labor federation article
12_01	Letter to Brian (S., Montreal), re: must take a rain check on invitation to speak at Sir George (Brown College); need to know the date of the LSO conference
12_01B	Letter to Alan (E.), Vancouver, re: need article on BC general strike
12_07	Letter to Alan (E.), Vancouver: disagreement between RD and Alan on BC general strike article with explanation of his cuts, and a critique of BC leaflet; establishing a caucus in the ON Teamsters; on need to pose an educational opposition to Mike (Mill's) "entrist" Quebec document.
12_13	Letter to Ruth and Reg, Vancouver: Ernie (T.) in GB, Alan (Harris) & Connie on way to BC; growth in Toronto LSA; 2-day discussion on Montreal & MLP; on LSO-LSA relations; on work in Quebec, Bob (Horn) refused Canadian citizenship
12_21	Letter to Alan (E., Vancouver), re: RD`s letter on Quebec to Reg & Ruth Bullock meant for him; Alan's sharp tone against Mill, the nature of Québécois nationalism; the MLP in Montreal and the Quebec NDP; notes on the Mine-Mill-Steel conflict in(Sudbury) ON and Britannia Beach; our position limited to against red-baiting

Jan 13, 1965

Alan Harris
Jerry Houle

Vancouver

Dear Ernie; (1)

Prime purpose of this note is to tell you that I would like the material that you are submitting here on Monday--meaning you have the weekend. I hope that is enough time.

And on your exile. Did I tell you that Alan is now married--to a girl named Commie who used to work with Helen O in the SLL office. Apparently she was given the heave-ho by Jerry H about three years ago. Helen says she is a terrific comrade. This girl has recently written Helen along the lines of their coming over here. You know that I am somewhat worried about Vancouver without you--and this may be the perfect solution--if Alan comes back this spring for him to go on to Vancouver for a period.

I have been expecting a note from Farrell as to Joe H's arrival in NY--At this time I have every intention of going down to talk this over along with other matters. And what do you think of going on to England for a period-or do you want to come here above all. Things are pretty rough in England-quite a challenge

affectionately

Ross

Joe Hansen (SWP
USA

Feb 5, 1965
Toronto

Vancouver

Dear Ernie;

Now you have the Vanguard--very late--but wrose, nothing from Vancouver. Not only did we miss the promies artkcles but Ken has not been sending us the clippings as he used to and of course we are not subscribing to either the Pacific Tribune or the BC D$_e$mocrat. So we went ahead anywgy--too bad.

Of course the trade union material makes the paper good for Vancouver anyway. Dick's article just in time. Probably the press out there has been carrying reports of the CLC concern about CSN progress. Then of course there is the lead article on Millard

I want to go to press very shortly too pick up some of the lost time. The FPCC tour pamphlet set me back--then I went to New York and shortly after my return I got hit by somekind of virous which slowed me down--didn't knock me down- I just refused--but slowed me down --particularly writing. What do you have coming thi way---the material on nationalization--we can of course still use it. I would like the material here by next weekend--here by the Monday Feb 15th. Let me know what to expect.

Had a visitor from out your way yesterday--Roger Perkins. I have the distinct impression that he intends to stay here in Toronto for a period. What does that mean-- as I gather he is a key person in the Progressive Workers set up. Is he here to try to organize something or is there a bit of a break-up. He hadn't yet gone into Windsor to see Gunter. He has come from NY with a pile of literature frojmyhe Progressive Labor Movement. Got talking to him fo a while. He tells me that Robertso was up to Vancouver a short while back with Spartacist and a house meeting was held fo him. I asked him who could Robertson be approaching--Whitney- --No he said the Whitney group is definitely non-existent now--with jusy Bill and Harold. Then I suggested Fergusson and Hattie--no--Jerry McK--no------it appears that he met with Brown possibly Fred etc.

He attecked your article-- quite sweeping but then when we got to cases--he atta that portion where you say that "all the members of PWM who were in the NDP have relinquished membership." He said that this was not so but then when he had previously told me that three of the tops were not bothering about the NDP--as it wasn't worth the time --I showed him that from these comments this statement is essentially true whetehr or not exactly factual . It was amusing to hear him cast inneuendos about the reprints by bourgeois publishing houses of Trotsky's writings these days. Whay dont they reprint Lenin, he asked. Of course I told him that Lenin hasn't the immediacy of interest that Trotsky has but fogot to tell him how could the bourgwois publishers even find it profitable with all the Soviet and now Chinese publications of Lenin. It was pitiful to hear this argument.

I thought that you responded a little too fast and a little too firmly and a little too publicly on that Alan Harris-E.TAte switcheroo idea. I just wanted to be in a position to broach the matter. Well anyway Joe thinks that it is a good idea. Had a long talk with him in NY and he agreed right off the bat. It looks like the British deal is a very long range one. In fact just before he came over the Nottingham

group
walked out of the unted body. They used the Mani episode to present an ultimatum to the London group. Of course Mani's conduct was disgraceful and their demands that he be removed as editor and that a statement be made on the case attacking Mani I think are quite justified--but they made these demands an ultimatum which of course is quite disgraceful. The London group closed down the one office and now have opened up another without the resources for such an elaborate operation. They have taken on a young fellow only around for a few years as organizer. Alan seems to be in bad repute with them

Did Alan show you his letter to me on the question of your leaving? Seems to me to be the only possible solution--that when you go we have to have someone like Alan and Connie to take your place out there. In someways too bad as we must get to work on building the center--I mean a leadership here at the center. Dick and Mike were both promising --but I guess we can limp along a couple of more years. I dont t'ink Alan likes Vancouver very much but that may well be from the experiences he had with Whitney and company. As I recall we left him there after the convention that we dragged them into a store bookstore from.

—R.D. Cotes

Friday Feb 5, 1965
81 Queen Street West
Toronto

The Militant

Dear George; (Novack, SWP leader) New York

Enclosed is the first material from Scott that I think you might consider using. The first two articles are somewhat weak so dont give up up until you read three and four.

Unfortunately the Toronto Star and al l the other Toronto dailies are still struck. The union has been carrying a campaign against purchasing the papers however since there are no alteratives other than TV and radio this campaign has bogged down . Last time I was on the picket line I told the boys that I thought this policy of labelling persons buying the paper as enemies of the strikers was self-defeating and should quitly be dropped. They all agreed that the Vanguard of course should buy a copy if only to know what the newspaper bosses have to say.

On occassion when compelled to quote any of the papers I have mentioned about my pulling a copy out of a garbage pail. I think you should be albe to work out some kind of formula with that Harvard education of your

warmest regards

Ross Dowson

81 Queen Street West
Toronto
Feb 16, 1965

Vancouver

(R)

Dear Jean;

Just a short note in answer to your letter of ten days ago

By now you will have received the New Park Publication pamphlets that you asked for--and we happened to have on stock. Thought the mimeographed item on the need for a revolutionary art might prove useful for your forum but after I mailed the copies I realized they would be too late.

I have sent you everything we have. I have just ordered a bunch of copies of Permanent Revolution--they sho ld be here in a week or so. I think I will do nothing about the other itesm that you wanted as Alan has to go around to Healy's to geth them and he has just come from there for the copies of Permanent Revolution. Let's let it ride for a month or so.

Root and Branch is no longer being published. We have finally traced Revolution after having lost them for several months. They disappeared too for a perio but I understand they are publishing again. We have ordered a bundle from them but they have not arrived yet. It is apparently being published on an every other month basis and has been publishing after ~~xxxx~~ disappearing for a period since last October. Here is the address;

Nouvelles Editions Internationales
52 rue Galande
Paris 5, France

Glad to hear that the store is pulling up better. Things are going along here as usual--averaging 70, 60, 80 67 dollars a day over the last 4 months.

How did the advertising work out---~~xxxxxx~~ Generally our experience has been poor--even with the Chinese money and the bigness of the Sino-Soviet dispute.

The youth headquarters is coming along--but it is a big job--jhavnet got the permit yet that would allow us to put up the partition forming the hall and opening night is only four away now.

warmest regards

Ross

Andy Anderson was in town --Claire arranged so that she could address a V of W meeting on her Cuba experience. She is now on her way across t e cuntry--trying to hold house meetings. Dont know when whe will hit your area but she intends to teach this September in a Vancouver suburb. Perhaps we can recruit her--cant see any reason why not--but Ruth and Reg probably know her better than anyone.

Feb 16, 1965

Vancouver

Dear Ernie;

As I was saying back on Feb 5. So Alan is all set to come back. I have suggested that he make enquiries shortly to see if the Canadian officials will let him back. I do not think he has Canadian citizenship and what with many other cases we have heard about it is not excluded that his efforts to return will be blocked. We would like to know where we stand with him before you actually go over. After all we would not like to have the two of you marooned in England--- of all places--where the possibilities for the socialist revolution are so favorable.

I gather that you got the minutes of the pc. ...and noted the few lines on Algeria. and other matters.

But first you must have noticed that we want you to prepare a document on the trade union question. The deadline is not so far away so as soon as you mange to get clear of the work on the hall I hope you willwrite me about it. We will have to have a discussion.

We will have to have a talk as to your time of leaving. I think that you should come here for a while first---I would like very much to see you. I am thinking that you should go to Algeria to the World Youth Festival. I have written to Pierre about how we see this as providing us the possibility of the first international gathering of our youth in decades. That it is being held in Algeria is very favorable for us. There will nodoubt be many of our European comrades there--including the Belgian youth. It is so close to Europe and Algeria is so attractive. Then too we will have an opportunity to meet Africans---and there is little language problem. It is possible that we can work a cheap one way fare---at anyrate it will cost next to nothing for the time you are at the festival.

The festival I take it is in August--indidently Dick is going to go---that will give you a little but not too much time as to be costly before the world congress. Of course it is onlylogical that you go to Europe for the world congress. In this way not only will we have a strong delegation which will be inspiring for everyone--four anyway--but you will meet everyone and get a quick feels of the situation before you get into the stew that is England.

How are you fixed for money. I suppose you have been salting a bit away. It looks like we will have to contribute little to Dick--his old man is apparently going to give him the grand tour--he knows nothing about the WC or the Algerian festival. If you will be needing help we willhave to start thinking along these lines---and then too--I doubt that Alan and Connie have any sum of any accou t. Of course when you come here you will be able to live here very cheaply and not substnatially cut into your funds. Our kitchen here still privides soup, a couple of slices of bread and honey and coffee for 25 cents.

I hope that you are planning to get something in here for this issue. I have been dealyed and you can still make this issue if the material arrives here Monday. I would not like to see us miss two issues in a row .I am assuming that the hall is taking up your time---~~xxxxxx~~ that you are not ill, depressed or anything like that.

The grand opening of the youth quarters is slated for Saturday. I am going to have to go up and put a hand in tommorrow night. I assume you are having the youth

out there and their meetings will write later-affectionately Ross

Vancouver

March 9, 1965

Dear Alan; Eyes Eyes?

A hellish long time in answering you for which there is really no excuse--- just that other demands have the appearance of being more pressing when really they are not--they just happen to have their foot in the door.

It was good to get your couple of notes and I really regret that I have not carried on at least somekind of correspondence with you. Of course your opinion of on developments and problems in Vancouver is extremely important to us all. That is why I was particularly glad to get your letter which astoundingly enough I find is dated August 4 and then your much later one on the situation and Ernie. And not only on Vancouver of course but on the situation in Quebec. I am hoping that we will be getting some contributions to the discussion that Dick's document was supposed to have opened up--from the Vancouver area.

I hope that Ernie has told you about some of the moves affott involving him, Alan and of course all of us. Yes, I agree with you that it would be very bad to just pull Ernie out of Vancouver, regardless of the progress that has been made over the past period. When Ernie talked of coming East before I stalled him and now it appears that ~~everything~~ with his pulling out we will actually wind up with a better situation for Vancouver.

No doubt Alan has developed considerably--but with Connie we probably have a comrade whose contribution will be at least as great. She was for some time a leading activist in the Healy group. Helen O who knows her very well tells me that she is a very experienced and effective comrade. The only thing wrong is that there is going to be a bit of a gap between Ernie's leaving and Alan's arriving. But that in itself may be a good experience. The date of the World Congress has not been set and Alan of course will not be coming until after that--~~sx~~ in all probability late Fall.

Than you will be getting two not only experienced comrades but more matnne, older comrades which will widen our atractivity.

After we complete that we must commence to think in terms of strengthening the center in terms of finally getting around to building an effective political committee which can start to give national leadership. We have over the past while been working in the opposite direction--not only with Vancouver, the international,but Montreal. But we cannot postpone this much longer.

~~xhxhhmxk~~ Your proposal that I should go West for a few months is extremely attractive. The way things are right now it appeara absurd but we should keep it in mind and see how things stand in a few months, Right now we are up to our necks in work. We have tried to arrange it so a well-known author and TV-radio man Austin Clarke speak along with others on a Malcolm X memorial platform but it has fallen through--so this Friday I will be performing at the Carpenters Hall. This can be a big meeting in view of the developments in Slema. Then on Sunday I will be speaking in London. We finally have made somekind of connection--we dont quite know yet but ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ it has been arranged so that I speak to an estimated 20 odd people, mostly youth of a general socialist persuasion. Then on Wednesday promses I made long ago have caught up on me. I am going to debate the head of the political science department of York--with the Dean in the chair--on resolve that Liberal Democracy will outlive Communism. In between I am supposed to put out the paper and as you know service the store in the mornings aside from buying etc. So as I say it seems absurd right now but we should keep ~~it~~ in mind. I have been successfully fighting off invitation to speak in Detroit and other sourthern points.

Of course my activity is not at all unrelated to the activity of ~~kkx~~ all of us. We have bene making some real gains in the past while. Jim O has been developing as a trade unionist and while our TU alliance has not exactly blossomed out through attracting new elements around us it certainly has had a good effect on the branch. Jim O is a delegate to the labor council along with Huhg of course and now John Steel. Bryan D is right now in the midst of an organizing drive in his shop which appears certain of success. Lyle and Darrel are both working in Bell which is supposed to be on the verge of undergoing a real unionization drive by the IBEW. Pat is back in a shop after getting his 10th grade--a steelworkers organized shop. There is a good possibility of our getting somehwere at long last in De Havilland, overcoming Hugh D's isolation. We have recruited a Portuguese who works there and who will now become active in the local but we may also get Bill L into the shop. Notonly are we now in the process of getting more comrades active in the union area and the labor council but we have managed to get some of our best contacts to become delegates to the council--a rubberworker and another CBRT man. ~~Bock~~ Myer was elected a delegate by his union--~~kkx~~ he headed the poll.

The youth are doing very effective work in the NDY and the left caucus. It seems certain that we will be recruiting a couple of Londoners to add to our Kingston recruits.

You would certainly be pleased to see John Steel's development. He is possibly the most effective person in the branch--his contributions are always pertinent, incisive

Is anyone reading French out there and following La Lutte Ouvriere which of course is a tremendous achievment. A short while back we recruited a couple of young French Canadians so we have finally been able to cut ~~kk~~our forces so that we have a group which conducts its business entirely in French--one which of course by the same token freely moves in the community where we must sink real roots.

Thanks for the material on the CP. While I know that it will be in many ways distasteful I really think that you should go out and see Malcolm. We owe it to history you might say. Who do we know who can fill in the gaps oven as well as Malcolm--and time is running out. We are really going to have to put out some material on the early days--we are continually getting requests--and as we continue to grow and attract serious elements they are going to demand to know all about us--where we come from, our record.etc,

Well you got squeezed out of the last issue of Vanguard. We ended up tights as a drum. Of course Ernie's article on the BC forests was the big factor there. Then we hadn't planned anything on Malcolm--he cut into our plans on Vietnam. The lengthy Gebenye article had been set by the time I got Ernie's contribution so we had to use it willynilly. But aside from the space problem, while I personally found the material in your article interesting I am not too sure about our readers. First ,what Greene had to say on China has been said by many persons in the Canadia press. Secondly I am not too sure that our readers would understand our concenr about Progressive Labor--about the scope of their advertising campaign and their picket of the Tribune and their comrpomising the China Freindship organization. This is of course of considerable interest to quite a small group of our readers but ~~kxxxxx~~ inkx an article 3/4 of which deals with the Greene speech it seems to me to be somewhat strained. I think when we deal with Progressive Labor we should either take a snipe or should take advantage of some situation that allows us to be very eudcational on a more general plane--like using them as a foil to present our vuew on the NDP. Of course their first public meeting provided us with a natrual We will have more opportunites if we think it worthwhile or necessary.

My impression is that they are not going to get anywhere here. Before he went back Roger with the aid of Norman Endicott called somekind of meeting to launch another paper or to move the paper to Toronto. A srewball IWWer is the source of our inofmation--he was invited to attend. Apparently the meeting ended with Endicott creating a bad impression

I do not know how reliable this all is. But I cannot see Endicott going anywhere--- Roger did not seem to have any contacts and the CP where they might hope to get something continues to decline. They had a meeting on Vietnam-advertised front page of the Tribune-- Ontario leader Bruce Magnusson speaking--and only about 50 turned out--nearly all old Ukrainians

Tonight we finally got word on the tour to Cuba-- it is on alright. The CP variation has fallen through---it was formally called off last week at a meeting on the campus. My own impression is that they never despite their claims to the contrary got any solid commitments from Cuba. But now FP has--and apparently there is little or no number restriction. How is the pamphlet sale coming along --the last tour report?

Sorry but I must close off. Will try to write more often

warmest regards

Ross

March 11, 1965
81 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ont.

Dear Alan and Connie

I thinkthat the accompanying letter is pretty well self explanatory

It would seem to me highly desireable that the Alexander Co mittee expand in the direction of aiding other victims of the South African government. I see that the press release of the New York Committee even now talks in these terms. In their postcript Feb 26 release they say "whatever the outcome of the March 2 appeal, the need for international support to opponents of apartheid will remain great etc etc."

There are complications of course aside from the energy at your disposal--political ones. My impression is that no one has raised the matter of Alexander's political tendency but others mentioned in this ~~xxxxxxx~~ accompanying letter are probably much more identified. Then of course there is the matter which you~~xxxxxx~~ no doubt are already quite sensitive to and that is the viability of those who have been prepared to identify with Alexander--it is possible they would not go further.

Of course this is a delicate matter. Paris knows all about the situation and willpossibly give a lead in a coming issue when they deal with the new arrests. Then too Alan may be going to the continent shortly where the whole thing could be thrashed out.

Received World Politics dated Feb 10 yesterday. Have there been any more? ~~xxxxxxxx~~ What is itspurpose in relation to W.O.? Should we get subs and a bundle for the store?

Suddenyl realize that I havent sent you any money--give us a week or so.

warmest regards

Ross

March 11, 1965
81 Queen Street W
Toronto

SWP

Dear Tom; (Kerry)

The enclosed material is addressed to Berta xxx on my suggestion. However thinking it over I concluded that it should go to you in the possibility that you are generally in charge of this area. I had that impression from the fact that you chaired the meeting when the cmmittee was first discussed.

Dora Taylor came in contact with us on the recommendation of Walter. Walter considers her and her connection with Tabata to be extremely important. As you have probably noted W.O. has been giving the All-African Convention and the Unity Movement big coverage. Possibly Joe clued you in when he was last in NY.

It is obvious that it would be very good to extend the Alexander committee's efforts in this direction. But of course there are problems-- The Convention and the Unity Movement are moremarked as our tendency than is the person of Alexander

At anyrate here is the information. When you have the chance I would like you to tell me your thinking on this--you can be sure that Dora will be enquiring.

fraternally

Ross

March 19, 1965
81 Queen Street W
Toronto

Newfoundland

Dear Jeff; (W-?)

By now you should have got the application form from CBC. Darrel has been very busy. working night and day--very long hours of overtime. So go easy on him. Right now he is probably busy working on a really big effort we are going to make through the NDP to consolidate something firm from the tremendous elemental response on the part of many high school students to the Selma situation. No doubt the NFLD press has been full of reports of the week long demonstration here in front of the consulate--at the Ont ario house and to Ottawa. A tremendous response on the part of the youth and the entire population but it remained on a very low plane thanks to the SNCC local leadership. They conformed entirely to the pressure of the press to make it respectable and respons ible, There was a very rotten anti political atmosphere at the sit in until the latter days. Fortunately when they went up to the house on Friday Donald MacDonald and Stephen Lewis were the only MPP's to identify with the demonstration and of course Douglas moved out at Ottawa. Right now the NDY is trying to whip up a meeting for this coming Sunday. Possibly Darrell is going to be speaking

Not only is Darrell very busy--they are all busy and probably find little or not time to write--at least in any detail. And any time they have free from the NDP-NDY.YSF LSA etc etc we are working on the youth center. When you come up you will see what a tremendous asset we have. We whipped things together so that we could have the grand opening last month but we really wont be in there and fully in business there until the end of the month at least. They asked me about the nature of the application you would want so I asked them to send a general application form. It would be good if you bounce back with it right away as I do not know that they take very many persons on for summer employment.

What do you think of going to Cuba this summer--or do you need the money. You probably know that the tour is on. It would be a tremendous e perience for you. Under separate cover I am sending a few notices so that you could pass them around and post them up on the university notice boards.

Glad to see that you can take on as a study project such a valuable work as Lenin's State and Revolution. Of course the rule of the many is oppressive and restcitive of the minority. A fuller freedom would have to search out ways and means of assuring that the minority does not even have to abide by the decision of the majority. As man changes and becomes free to develop his fullest potentialisites, becomes fully social we can anticiapte that we will seek to remove restraints of any and all kinds In a class society, in a society which imposes on us restraints if only due to certain limits in resourses the concept of the minority submittingcon to the majoirty decision on the basis on one man one vote appears acceptable. But it is a restrain on freedom-- a denail of it and as we develop continue to develop past a classless society past all shortages of goods we will be able to remove even this restraint and realize a full freedom. I have not checked up on the section you refer to as all the editions are numbered differently but if Lenin doesnot refer etensively to Critique of the Gotha Program at this point you should get this work. Mar discusses this in that short pamphlet.

It is really not too important that you failed to contact Regula. I thought you would have got a bang out of it--to learn all about what is going on here --besides she is fairly good looking and could have stood you a few drinks in the poshest bar in towne. You missed your chance. Instead of shooting you this time we will try to provide you with another chance. All you had to do of course was to talk to her about what you wanted--even about the longshoremen's strike. You know of course thereis absolutely nothing about it in the press here.

Your participation in the CUS campaign soundslike it could be very valuable. Have you made any worthwhile contacts in the past term out of which a socialist or NDP univiersity club could be built? Eveh a copule of man club could be put to good use on ocassion--to invite a leader of the longshoremen up to state their case--or the leader of the NDP. John Glenn certainly does marvels along this line. His what is really a one man Socialist Club has benen utilized to bring our Bloomington comrades to the campus, guest speaker from the U of T campus Cuba committee and yesterday Ross Dowson in a debate with the dean of Atkinson college on liberal democracy--resolved that it will outlive communism . There are only 800 enrolled but the meeting chaired by the dean of all students attracted well over 100 students and many professors. I do not know how much our own ideas in a concrete way won support but I do know that everyone was astonished how irrelevant liberal democracy how meaningless it is with relation to the big issues of our times.

Have you managed to contact the NDP at all. I would very much like to know your impression of it. [illegible] Was there an NDP club already on the campus this year when you returned or were you able to help build one. But I was particu larly thinking in terms of the St John's NDP. What is your impression of it-- does it function on any regular basis--have you been in contact with it.

And what about the Portuguese. Are they still coming into St Johns off the banks? I dont suppose the longshoremen's strike has seriously effected that since they would probably for the most part taking on water and a few supplies. Is there a place they hang out in town--is it possible to appraoch them in anyway. We are making a good contact with a Portuguese-Canadian Association here in Toronto--there are some e cellent types. I am sending under separate cover a copy of their bulletin --in English. If you dont know anything about these matters I am wondering if you would take off a little time in the ne t few weeks to poke around and find out what you can about Portuguese seamen's habits. As you probably know there is a tremendous struggle underway--opening up--in both Spain and Portugal--the students have just carried out with considerable successs a whole wave of struggles across the Iberian peninsual

But I must close this note off--supper is here--and tonight I must go up and do a stint on the youth headquarters. Some of our best sympathizers have been pitching in but allof us have been absent on other projects and it is not looking very good.

comradely

Ross

April 4, 1965

Dear Ernie;

I was hoping to get into your letter over the weekend however I decided to put my time into the house, the youth headquarters, which has got bogged down. The youth are now meeting there and both Art and Pat are sleeping there but generally under poor conditions It is good that I did for on a couple of ocassions we had the volunteer and epperienced aid of a couple of Portuguese and I was the only one of us there, to greet them, to tell them what we wanted done etc. That is not to say that the comrades have not pitched in--- there is just so much work that comrades wear out. Besides many of them have little or no skill, ability, to contribute much worthwhile. Suprising the wide gap between our youth comrades and my and a bitt later generation as to ability to use ones hands

There is much to be done with the house and u fortunately both Hans and George Bryant are the kind of technicians ~~that~~ the kind who build for the ages that we are taking on more than in my opinion is really necessary. Nothing will do but we should put a whole new stair well in. The demands of the city building department are bad enough but thus outlook of our two major operators has madec bigger demands on us. George has been working on it full time for about 10 days and now Harry P will be puting in about 4 to 5 hours a day for the ne t week. It will be a fine place when we get it dome. Will send you photos then. The apratements that John Art and Pat will be occupying will be first rate. We havent even tackled the basement for the youth offices yet. We are ficing the lower hall so that we can anticipate getting liquor ~~permits~~ permits on ocassion. But to your letter---

I am suprised that the US committee (Ale ander) is pressing for early replies. We are getting their releases but nothing else. We have been dealying doing anything at this end. For one thing we are very busy--in my opinion much too busy--leaivng comrades very little time to read and study. There seem to be meetingas all the time---NDP, caucus trade union~~zzhhmmzzz~~ voice of women caucus, LSA, YSF, then the voice of owmen affairs hemselves, the alliance meetings, the labor council, ND[illegible]eetings, NDY, Fair Play etc etc. It is one thing to hold a public meeting and turn the funds over but quite another to get a committee underway, approach sponsors, hold other meetings ,try and raise funds. But aside from the grind there is a bit of a technical problem right now. The German (Franz comrade who is the spark behind the Ale ander Committee on his own formally disbabded it probably for tow reasons---the appeal has been heard and then the pressure to move to other cases. You have no doubt read about the Sihlali and Myakizana cases. This has created a problem. ~~Zhez~~ I do not know what the British committee is going to do--as some who would support Aleander might well not be willing to support these two cases which tie in with the All African Convention and the Unity Movement of SA(Ourselves) The American committee in its statement of purposes while it has the Ale ander name tag left things so that it could move over to other cases furtehrmore the question of just what current a committee might support is not so important in the US as it is in London where all the various currents have spokesman and are at war against us

There is a leading SA here in Toronto who we are in very close touch with. She will be going south the meet the committee in a couple of weeks and I am asking her to take up the whole matter with them as to how we should procede. For instance perhaps it wou be just as well if it is necessary for us to move out into this area of work to start off with a more general name and declared aim. Perhaps our committee opening up this way could even serve an international purpose.

We so happen to be in a position to send some money over to the Zambia-office in e ile of the Unibty Movement(a special donation given to us for the Ale ander committee) which they need very badly but otherwise I think we will let things ride until our SAfrican reutrns from N.Y.

Diane is now running off the expirees in B.C. She is also running off the current subscribers for your information. I eliminated all the plates that were lower than 60 we are now at 106 I think so that means those ~~zzz~~ four and five years back. Should you want any particular address back there we have kept the cards. By eliminating these old plates she can just run through all the rest without any knowledge of location of the places.

Yes, by all means send something in by Aeg for the sub work. The trouble with our paper, the matter of deadline etc, is that we really dont have an editor—a person whose main responsibility is the peper, a person whose work this is above all and who is cleared of other work accordingly. It often seems to me that the most unimport ant job that I have is the Vanguard. I am more a bookstore operator, an always accessible consultant, a pinch hitter in many fields. This is not to say that other comrades do not do their work, that real efforts, many successful are not made to clear me of other responsibilities--but we do not have a real leader here. We have developed a certain group leadership over the year or two. Actually the e ecuvie is quite good but there are no really authoritative comrades. After all we have been dispersing them here there and everywhere. There are a couple in the youth and I think we are going to have to get them out. Art is a leader. Possibly John R. now Dick is talking about pulling out of Montreal as soon as things get moving there with a real Fr-Cdn base and I think that that is a good idea.

Yes, we do need a twice monthly and very very soon too. This requires the solution of th above problem for to put out a twice monthly we need another comrade on staff

I did not previously tell you another direction we are moving into. We have purchased an offset press—the old SWP Chicago press. We are also purchasing a Varityper so that we can set copy. Our immediate plans as soon as we get the press here are to start printing the youth paper ourselves. We have a young comrade here who I have encouraged to move into the printing area. He will be quitting his job shortly, probably going on the tour and then returning to get a job in some shop where they do offset work and if possible vartiype work. Aside from puting out the youth paper I am hoping we can put out some pamphlets of our own. Not just stuff that we have previously run in the Vanguard but specially written material on Who Owns Canada etc. I am hoping that we will have this in operation by ne t fall. The press is costing us about $500 and the varityper almost $1,500. So it is a big project for us. We will get a couple of French fonts so that we can set up pampphlets for our Montreal comrades. We have had a couple of donations that have made it possible to move out in this direction.

Yes we will have to talk about some of the matters you raise about the press. I have been hearing a bit abouta discussion in the youth and their press. I understand Alan is proposing that the youth paper take on a more theoretical character, take on a magazine form. Generally I am opposed to that. I think it was a big step back in the U.S., perhaps necessary but a step back just the same. We need a youth paper, sensitive, hitting imm ediate issues, that can be given away, distributed. All the less do we need a magazine no w that we have full use of the Young Socialist--who are more than an ious to have in every issue something from Canada on a more general theoretical plane. I do not think the LSA needs a theoretical journal at this stage--I think we need a twice monthly. I dont think that the paper is too editorialized--at anyrate I think that it would loosen up in the right direction by coming out more often

About the deadline however-- let's have the dead dealine here on April 17th--and of course I could do with anything you can manage to get away earlier.

I havent had a chance to dig up anything for you on the trade union resolution. Do you have any of the SLP convention resolutions of the past years? I havent had a c ance to give much thought to it either---will do so ne t letter

The proposition of going out to Van and driving back with you on a more or less leisurely basis is very attractive. And of course to be the May Day speaker is also very attractive The May Day project alas is out. We have been e propriated by the city and when cheeking up with them as to who I should pay the rent I raised the matter of how long we might have. He fellow could give us nothing official but he told me that he knows that the officials are calling the verious former ownerstogether to discuss leases etc--with the epropriation our lease is no longer valid and we are a monthly tenant--with a view to clearig us out in June. I was hpoing that we could coast until fall. We have the convention preparations --nothing has been done on documentation--we have the tour coming up which is going to take several comrades away all summer and we hovent got started on working on the truck and now we have the obtaining of quarters suitable to us and remodelling and getting in. A big job which I hate to think of. You know we havent unpacked some things from our last moving over 6 years ago. Started the phone calling to the real estate outfits this morning. Seem to be places available but rents are high . It is going to take some time to get what we want. This time we hope to seperate the store from the hall and headquarters. We should also find suitalbe space to set up a print shop--a sort of unit --with room for everything including our mimoegraph and the little letter press we own which Peter Dorn has been xxxxxm keeping .

So I am afraid that I cannot accept the May Day invitation(by the way send the copy in for an ad ne t Vanguard) and it doesn't look good at all for my coming out there

I do not know that the FC or NC made any decision but I hear that everyone is operating on the basis of this years tour being an across Canada one. So we will be meeting all the various readers in the West and spending sometime in Vancouver. We have bought a new truc truach for the tour. George and Bea have contributed it in actuality which in somewyas is not too good. George before we could get discussing what it should be like committed us to a real monster---with a big double cab. Gas consumption is going to be big I fear.

The festival in Algeria is July 28 to August 7th as you possibly noted in W.O. We have not received anything on the World Congress. Nor have we heard anything from Alan with regards to the problem of his returning to Canada. Sent him $100 a few weeks ago and thought this would surely break through. Big problems in England and he is very much involved As you possibly know whatever progress towards unification of the two groups had been made was blown up around Christmas over the Mani incident. The Nottingham group presented an ultimatum to the Grant group who of course grabbed it to justify their conduct. I see from a recent letter Alan is under somekind of attack from a leading British but the letter is not too clear as to what is involved.

I see it is 6 oclock so I am sending this note off. I imagine I am going to be involved in working out an accident report tonight. xxA couple of comrades were off to NY to pick up the press last weekedn and while neither was hurt they practically demolish a Volkswaggen van that we borrowed. We have to see what we can get insurance wise but fast.

warmest regards

April 6, 1965

continued from letter dated April 4 but actually April 6/64

Jean R

Dear Ernie;

Yes, the Algerian festival is July 26 to August 7th. There are several comrades going but it looks like no one will be going on the actual tour flite that is being areanged by a committee here. I gather that it is no financial benefit--that is if you are not intending to go on on some kind of junket they are tying in with the price in one of the workers states. last time it included a trip into the USSR Everyone here who took it thought it wasn't worthwhile . I understand that arrangements are underway so that all our people can meet in advance to discuss what we can hope to achieve there. However you will be here in lots of time to work this out.

I really do not have any opinions as to this matter of Alan working full time. Of course we need a fulltimer there. I suppose since she has been working the store that Jean has played the role more than anyone else. From my observations here--much more limited--I was considerably impressed by Jean. But I suppo you have considered her seriously as against Alan. But we certainly do need a full timer and when you consider it you should take into consideration that Alan will be coming in--the time lag wouldn't appear to be so vital and of course as you will recall Alan has had considerable store and book experience besides the English political experience behind him. Perhaps you might consider delaying decision until Alan arrives probably in October or thereabouts.

You have a lengthy paragraph about the Canada-Cuba Committee but from the contenst I take it you mean the Canada-China Committee . Yes I would agree with your opinions. We want to be in touch with what it turns up, what it attracts but the committee itself from what I can see offers us very little. On the whole China doesn't seem to me to be very attracitve to viable leftists in this country. Of course in Vancouver it may be more so particularly because of the Chinesepopulation but it is interesting that the few Maoists here havent moved to set up anything. The material, the various books and pamphlets coming out of China are so crude, so Stalinized, the leadership's official statements in sharp contrast to those of the Cubans are so insensitive to the humanist and democratic aspirations of the socialist movement, and there is such a contraidction in the revolutionary words of the Chinese CP and the policy its supporters adhere to in the rest of the wolrd--particularly in Burmam, Cambodia and Indonesia not to speak of Ceylon. I dont think can really get excited about China . Yes I think in general that our own activities should come first

Yes the Portuguese-Canadian Association has big possibilities for us--already it is making it possible for us to help get a Spanish association underway. We have had no influence whatsover in the bulletin they put out--that is the work of the president who is a very good type on his own and very friendly. The executive is composed of very serious elements. Last night I went over a document that one of us has prepared on this area of work. We will beputing it out shorlty in a bull etin. Three or four of the Portuguese have been helping with the youth house and 4 or 5 others came to the forum last week. They have been much impressed by us. and it is certain that we will build effective forces in there and recruit some The document will tell you how important this area is. There is quite a Portuguese community in Vancouver--I am going to propose that the president make a national

tour

I suppose you are already acquainted with the tours that the Cubans have finally agreed to arrange for anyone able to go arou d May 1 and July 26 --all you have to do is delivery yourself to Havana and they look after you for the duration. Over and above our students going on the work tour it would be a good idea if some of our comrades coul d arrange their holidays to take in one or the other date. Actually it would be quite a reasonabley priced holiday --bus fare to Mexico city is not bad at all--the only major outlay the plae plane to and from Havana. Vern asked if I would go but I toll him there is just too much on here this summer--possibly you could go before pulling out to Algeria but as soon as a wrote this I noted that the Algerian festival commences on July 26--which is now when you think of it hard to understand

LSA

Right now Toronto is involved in some intens e maneuverings with the various peace groups. The demonstration of a few weeks ago on Vietnam came out of these efforts. Of course the TCND pulled out of the co-ordinating committee and didn't participate in the demonstration. But the Toronto Peace Congress(Endicott) went along . Now there is much ado about the Easter March. They are having to recog nize us --that was settled when we carried our own vitenam demonstration of100 or so. They are now trying to convince us to come along but to volunteer to drop our own banner--meaning that we should not put out a leaflet or distribute our paper. We did not distribute the paper last Vietnam turnout on the basis that in essnece the leaflet was ours. They arrived with only three picket signs so the picjet signs carried our slogans. Hard to say what will happen with the Easter march. --so important with the Vietnam situation. However it appears that the TCND which is actually in a very bad way intnds to carry a meeting of its own. Others want to march and Blumenfeld has just spent a ~~fewmmm~~ an hour or so talking to Pat about the plans of the others. Last demonstration there was agreement that it would close with representatives of various groups making a short speech but the CPers opposed this despite previous agreement and we gave in. Everyone else is embarassed by this double-dealingso the Easter march is a delicate question. We decided last meeting that if they try to freeze us out of the committee that we will have our NDYers pull out

Last Sunday an effort of our local Maoists to overcome their isolation came off. They held a meeting of persons interested in what might be called regroupment. Aside from ourselves--John W and Cliff there was no one representing anything other than a few screwballs from the Peace house and Endicott(Norman) Very confus ed dont think it is going anywhere. Some of themare talking about setting up an organ ization--with coordinating possibilities, with a headquarters and library--butb probably the most that can come out of it is a few forums. Rather late in the day and as I said none of them represent anything of any account.

A few words on the trade union document; What we need is a document that outlines the situation in Canada--the potentiality of the trade unions, their importance the problems before the militants, the bureaucracy, its roots, its role, the need for a new leadership, the possibilities of building it, the organization of the unorganized, automation, political action, the question of Cdn autonomy. It should be simple and clear--so written that we couldpublish it in a pamphlet form, general so that it has some life expactancy.

I think that it is obvious that I am unable to go out there--that our tour through Canada is out--that the dates of the Cuban trips are such as to be out of the question so now we should be talking about when we can hope to have you here

affectionately

April 12, 1965
81 Queen Street West
Toronto

Bernard Bloom
Dept of Political Science
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alta.

Dear Friend;

Sorry to be so long, unpardonably long, in answering your letter of January 17. I put it aside due to pressure of other work at that time and I only recently came across it. We are eztremely busy these days -helping the YSF set up its headquarters here, attempting to find a new suitable quarters for our bookstore preparing to get a modest print shop into order over and above the routine work of sustaininig and promoting the LSA and of course moving out when the occ asion presents itself.----and there have been more occasions than heretofore.

I think your essay is quite a good one--almost classically Marxist yet wirtten in a different terminology. I take it that this is by design--a sort of universityization of Marxism. We have attempted to realize this with our paper- to popularize, to relate Marxism to the American scene--to the understanding and to the idiom of the working class of this continent.

I really do not know what your critic means by his attack that you are playing Leninist tricks. I do know that there are some who call themselves Marxist or who secretly concede something to Marxism but who hold that Lenin while perhaps essentailly a Marxist brought to it a bag of tricks which included deception, conspriacy, subertfuge etc etc. This type while hostile to Stalinism which is actually the antitheses of Leninism nonetheless accepts as good coin the Stalinist claim that it is a continuator ,an eztension of Leninism.
To varying degrees they accept and promote the idea that Stalinism has its roots in Leninism and they present Lenin not as a highly principled and gifted Marxist but at best some kind of pragmatist and at worst somekind of manipulator, coniver, doubledealer and so forth. This view is accepted in certain bourgeois circles whowould recognize Marx's genuius but place him back in the 1800's with little relevancy to these times. It is also promoted by such academic Marxists as the Socialist Labor Party who of course reject the theory of the permanent rev- olution

Perhaps your critic falls into one of these categories--most probably the safe kind of Marxist who would deprive Marx of any real relevancy --and would certainly deprive his doctrine of its revolutionary edge

Yes I would think your essay would be embarassing to an academic Marxist for while it is written in a terminoloy that is to some degree acceptable in his circle it gives nothing to his wish to remain uninvolved. Perhaps that is what makes you feel that you might have layed yourself open to the charge of sectarianism.

To hold a consistant view, and to hold it seriously, to argue for it and to act as best one can under prevailinig objective conditions sometimes ~~xxxxx~~ reveals that you stand few in number. But that is not sectarianism. He who is a sectarian is one who fails to grasp even what possibilities exist in the given situation

Perhaps your critic would do us the favor of being more specific, of spelling out his views so that we could seriously come to grips with them

Incidently how has the response been to the student tour to Cuba out there. Are you yourself able to go this summer. It would be a big experience if you can ~~xxxxx~~ forego the money you might otherwise earn by working

If I am not mistaken you are acquianted with Dick Fidler. A week or so ago he came in to look over our archives on the Canadian CP(I naturally did not let him take anything out) He was working on a paper for his course at Sir George Williams. Perhaps you might ask him for a copy as an aid for any future work you might take on on this field.

Looking forward to meeting you sometime in the near future

fraternally

Ross Dowson

"April 26, 1965"

Vancouver

Dear Kg:

What's this about our hearing you've been walking around with a hernia x Highly irresponsible and I am glad to hear that they've put you on your back for a couple of weeks to put you in to shape again x I hope you meet 1208's standards shortly — that under duress they won't lower them until you are really in shape again x

Often I have felt that I wouldn't mind being approximately (that leaves lots of loopholes) in the position you're in right now x I don't the pain and discomfort of course — but with a real patch-up job there seems to be nothing so burdensome at the time but so transitory x

Looking forward to hearing about lots of ideas coming out of your forced convalescence x Haven't had much time myself. But a few days ago we signed up for a new location — just up from Toronto's main intersection (Bloor, Yonge) I will be in on June 1st x Onward and upward as usual x The four problems have been solved x We will have some of our most promising cadre in national Trailblazer this year x Tied up in the store more than ever right now but that is preparatory to a real solution of the staff problem here x We are getting ready to take one of the youth on full terms (split between us & the youth from vantage point of view) and a real solution of the store

But those simple things have come in and
almost got forgotten in our haste
back Home for Mary Day

May 6, 1965

Vancouver

Dear Ernie

Last weekend after a stay of over a week our good friend Anne Jacks returned from her trip to New York and her lengthy discussions about the Alexander Defence workd and its many ramifications. I could not arrange a meeting with ~~Regual~~ Regula Hodlich until Tuesday night and now things are underway. John has gone up to get a post office box and Regual phoned in this morning that Austin Clarke, the West Indian novelist and friend of Malcolm X has agreed to be a sponsor and probably do the big affair we are holding on May 15th.

I think that I wrote you when you asked what we are doing the reasons for our dealy. We thought that now that the Alexander case had reached a certain state--the appeal was turned down---that the committee might consider it advisable to change its name to a more general one so that it could ore properly cover its new character--of taking up many other cases particularly cases involving the Unity Movement. Well you have no doubt noted that the British committee met and whatever the nature of its discussions, its problems, it has retained the old name and agreed to widen its area of activity. I got a letter from Alan yesterday and while he mentions the committee he says little about it. As you probably have guessed London its a factional hot point and it is possible that they felt they could not change the name without causing some difficulties for themselves with various connections that had established through it. Other African groups that would go along with the defence of Alexander--he is young and an intelleuctual, even though they know what his politics are, would think twice about the Unity Movement--and of course Tabata

At anyrate Britain is retaining the name and widening their activity. The US already had written into its statement of aims--wider purposes. Tom told Anna that they want us to use the Alexander name----and of course since they both are reatining it and it has such eminient sponsors---Linus Pauling now, why we are now going full steam ahead.

On May 15th we are holding a literary affair at the new store---824 Yonge. We wont actually be in the store--at best we will have put down a new floor. This store is right across from Britnell's on the corner--the corner of Yonge and Cumberland--first block north of Bloor.--on the edge of Toronto big new village--Yorkville--you have probably read about it in the papers. We are not putin anything into the store but our chairs---and probably a display of poetry books--possibly Cuban and other posters. We are preapring a small brochure which explains the purpose of the committee nicely laid out--listing many of the US and English sponsors etc. You will be able to use this brochure too. We are also preparing and invitation for this specific May 15th affair which will look like a ticket--but mentioning a contribution at the door

We got a box for the Committee and all correspondence should now be siphoned through there---it is Box 824 Station F

I think we have a good person in Regual to handle this. She shows considerable interest and knowsn many people in the campus intellectual circles. Furthermore she

May 6, 1965

Vancouver

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At anyrate Britain is retaining the name and widening their activity. The US already had written into its statement of aims--wider purposes. Tom told Anna that they want us to use the Alexander name----and of course since they both are reatining it and it has such eminient sponsors---Linus Pauling now, why we are now going full steam ahead.

On May 15th we are holding a literary affair at the new store---824 Yonge. We wont actually be in the store--at best we will have put down a new floor. This store is right across from Britnell's on the corner--the corner of Yonge and Cumberland--first block north of Bloor.--on the edge of Toronto big new village--Yorkville--you have probably read about it in the papers. We are not putin anything into the store but our chairs---and probably a display of poetry books--possibly Cuban and other posters. We are preapring a small brochure which explains the purpose of the committee nicely laid out--listing many of the US and English sponsors etc. You will be able to use this brochure too. We are also preparing and invitation for this specific May 15th affair which will look like a ticket--but mentioning a contribution at the door

We got a box for the Committee and all correspondence should now be siphoned through there---it is Box 824 Station F

I think we have a good person in Regual to handle this. She shows considerable interest and knowsn many people in the campus intellectual circles. Furthermore she

is prepared to work very close with us. She has little experience but she will have the help of Anna Jacks who unfortunately for various reasons will have to stay somewhat in t background

Probably you have been thinking for sometime about just who we can get to take over field of work in the Vancouver area. Of course we need someone who is not too directly and publicly tied to us but someone who has our confidence. First thing we need are some Canadian sponsors. It would be good if we had some right away and the more eminent the better. I think we should take a stab at the best first--or at least we want to start talking Canadian names with some fairly big ones from the beginning--even though we may have other lesser lights already tied down. Birney would be good of course-- I am not too sure about Steeves right off the bat as others look upon her as fiercely pa At anyrate I am sure that you get the picture. This should not be hard at all in view of eminence of the US sponsors which also include Dorothy Day. Waldo Frank, Rev A.J. Muste Reinhold Niebur and Pete Seeger

If you have someone who can pick up these names fairly quickly perhaps you could fire them in to us--or airmail special delivery--and we might get them on the brochure. I would think that even you could approach Birney.

will xxx write you later at length

Have you got down on the Nigeria thing--

looking for ard to your arrival

affectionately

Moss

May 17, 1965

Vancouver

(R)

Dear Jean;

Just a line to enclose with this listing of books in Spanish. We will be ordering some in the next few days and perhaps you have a few persons around who might want something from it. Our work in the Spanish and Portuguese community contines to progress so it is important that we have material in this language.

Pinheiro who co-authors the book on Portugal with Peter Fryer is extremely close to us--possibly you know this book is available in English--I think Ramirez is also very close to us

Glad to hear that you found time to drop Dick P a line--he was pleased to hear from you and Nick.

The work at the new store is coming along fairly well--we have the partition up have made one half of the window a walk in job for wracks so that we do not have so much to dress all the time--will also give us an automatic changing window if we put spinners in it. The hall is going to be excellent--a big improvement with its private entrance. The floor space given over to the store will be about the same as the one here--the hall will have about 120 square feet more. The basement will be about the same I think although we will be able to make a better division. It will be good to have a hall with a private entrance. All we have lost is our lounge--but we have a first class location for the store

Did you get copies of the sample resolutions that John S as convenor of the NDP fraction had drwan up. He is doing an excellent job --so well in fact that there will probably be more left wing resolutions in this convention than ever--even though most of the clubs are inactive. Last St Pauls meeting was packed by the right wing so that they could recind all the left wing resolutions passed the previous meeting. The editor of the paper presented a resolution calling for the dissolution of the NDY--under pressure he gave as the reason that the Trotskyists have taken it over. His vote was the only one cast in favor. Richmond Hill will have some good resolutions as will Spadina ~~xxxx~~

Also enclosed is a copy of a leaflet the youth dsitrubuted to a large meeting of Jewish youth organizations campaigning for suppression of the local fascists. The NDY hugh school seminar came off well. John L got big press. I will try and locate a copy

warmest regards

Ross

Dick (F) (Montreal)

May 17, 1965

Dear Dick

Sorry to see you were unable to make the Saturday affair. Of course I wasn't able to either but I heard many versions of it. Everyone was agreed that it was a success, that the atmosphere was good and of course no one disputed the value of the money collected.

There were fewer persons there than I had expected--53 paid admission and it is probable that Mitch let the performers in and we had sixty. Unfortunately there were two events of some importance that cut into the attendance....the teach-in at the U of T with the confrontation between Rusk and some other professor --and then the NDY metro council under our pressure held an all-day seminar on the problems of high school students. But even if the attendance was lower than I thought it would be everyone said that the feeling of the place was very good and there would have been no sensing of this except by us incurable optimists.

Austin Clarke MC--ed the affair--there were some criticisms of his abilities but that we had no control over--all in all his presence was a feather in our cap. Bill Price everyone agreed was tops as a singer. Purdy was in good form and Joe Rosenblatt got a big hand--Clarke wants to work with him. The general feeling was that the program was much too long--if we had had some more experienced persons we could have made adjustments. Regual handled it and considering her inexperience I would say she probably did a good job. Everyone thought her comments on the committee very good.

So we are all underway. Now we have to move out and get sponsors. This should not be too hard. Regual is unfortuanalty taken out of town until the end of the week. But we have made a commitment to get together over supper Friday when she comes in to digest the ~~experience~~ and prepare to move on.

If you can make it Friday it would be very good.

warmest regards

Ross

May 21, 1965

to Alexander Defence Ctee

Vancouver

Dear Ernie;

Yes, got the telegram about Birney ok. I happened to meet him on the street a few days later and he told me he was coming to the Alexander Committee meeting--but he didn't turn up.

The affair went off very well. Fewer people than I had anticipated but everyone told me that t ere was certainly no feeling that it was anything other than a success. I think Mitch must have left everyone connected with running it in free--they collected about ~~xx~~ 55 admissions.

Yes, that is a big problem--having persons who can work in this area. There is really no one here either ~~bzt~~. I have been reluctant to get involved in this whole matter--we have so many things to do with the forces available. However the heat is on us---and while I am very much involved unfortunately we have a couple of names we can use--and we happen to have a real authority on Africa(South) here who while she cannot play a public role can nonetheless play an important advisory one and administrative one. Reguła is really interested and had already done a few things--now she is obviously prepared to do more. It is unfobtunate that she will be ~~zmz~~ leaving for Africa ~~wkrly~~ in August. Dick is only in town ocassionaly and then of course is notably reticent. We will be meeting tonight---our SAfrican and Regula and I will bring up the content of your letter along with Dick's comments from Montreal.

As I see it this committee is not to be a membership committee. What actions it involves itself in must be firmly ~~in~~ under the control of its national office here in Toronto.~~xhkmx~~ Off hand I do not think that we need set up sub committees in various localities, although it woyld seem to me beneficial if we could set up a correspondent at key points who could arrange to stimulate anyone or everyone to raise money for the committees work. Anna(our SAfrican) is writing the south to see how they are operating. Probably she has this information for tonights get together. I think that everyone should sit on this until they hear from Reguła. That information about the S Africans there is very valuable and they might just be the persons to carry the ball there...I note your comments about it possible they would not want to publicly declare themselves.

Of course you are going to Algeria. There is no money problem. I phoned Peter. I think he told me that the form points out that the registration as a member of the Canadian delegation is minimal--was it $50 for the whole two weeks--food and bed etc. You do not have to take their air trip--since you will not be returning for some period you will only need a Paris one way then a return fare to Algiers. Some of the comrades are hitching to Marsailles and taking the boat over. Perhaps you should consider that ---a travel agency can give you all the necessary details. I do not know the date of the WC--I have no idea that it has been postponed. But I think that it is very important that you go to the festival---a letter was sent out from the centre on this--we are going to have a fairly substantial international representation I think and there can

be big things come out of it

I know there will be big problems in Vancouver with your leaving but it seems to me that we are pretty much committed. At anyrate this has to be discussed on its own merits. There is no financial problem--it is important politically to attend this affiar---and of course we really are committed to your replacing Alan. Did Alan write you recently. I received a letter a week or so ago and he now proposes to delay coming here until early Hanuary. How does that strike you---it would mean if you leave for Algeria and the WC there will be anx even bigger gap before you are replaced.

If you think that the situation in Vancouver would be bad from the time you leave until Alan gets here possibly we can make arrangments for some able comrade to go out there. One of the leading youth will be going on full time here and it would seem to me to be a very fine beginning for him to go out to Vancouver from say September to Janaury

But this is not the purpose of my note.

I want what you can bang out for the paper--just as soon as you can do it. I am going to have difficulties with this issue--what with the moving -re-establishing to store etc. All and all a very upsetting experience. So I am counting on you to send an article on the BC NDP convention---good. And I am counting on you to have it here just as soon as possible.

n

Tomorrow we are going to make the first movings--are heds are forced as I picked up a paper folder, a display ~~xxxxxx~~case and some shelving at an auction and they have to be out of the premises where they are by twelve noon tomorrow. Last week we got the Varityper. We will be getting someone to take the course that Vairtyper has so that by the Fall we will be able to put out the youth paper.

Will try to write at length first opportunity we have.

The store and headquarters are going to be very good. We had to keep the store the same space as here so that we could enlarge the headquarters a bit. Fortunately we will not have to buy fixtures

affectionately

Ross

VANGUARD
FORUM

1 cumberland street toronto 5

June 22, 1965

Dear Ruth and Reg;

Dont use the above address--sending it along as a sample of the first job done on the press . Since we are on the corner of Yonge and Cumberland we have two addresses. The forum while back of the store has a completely separate entrance and we will be using the Cumberland address to try to maintain a greater separation than we ever had before. I am sure that the postman is going to shove all the mail through the 824 Yonge Street, oronto 5 letter box. Nothing would do before we have much else in place that we should see how the press is working---and as you can see from this letterhead it is working alright. Hope to have everything under control including a couple of comrades trained more or less as varityper operators by the fall. We will put the youth publication out in the fall on it ---and I hope the first of a stream of pamphlets.

Lots to say--about the unfortunate cancellation of the Fair Play tour etc. But this is an opening letter after months of silence, of being tied down both arms and legs. Hope you found the statement satisfactory. Hendsbee has been telling us that he disagrees. He and Roger have been coming to all the forums--selling their paper outside, never saying anything from the floor, but spilling out lots of crap during their patient and thorough visits to our contacts. We have no reason to believe that the Canadian government was behind the cancellation although these tours were hitting it where it hurt. None of the Cubans even hinted that. Seems clear that conservative forces have been temporarily strengthened by the US invasion of Dominican Republic and the failure of the Chinese and Russians to take any form stand on the Vietnam situation. The Cubans have been straddling between the Mao and Kosygin positions but the Chinese have given them nothing to stand on since their deeds have proven so widely separated from their words. A real blow at our campus work but many of the students have reacted well--I understand some have expressed real understanding of the situation and authorized that their $25 deposit go to the committee's expenses. Certain moves will be made to counteract any tendencies to think we are through or that our support of the revolution has been modified in anyway. I understand you have had a social. I have proposed to Vern that a bulletin should come out--possibly carrying Castro's May Day speech among others items--and that we should hold a real bangup affair this July 26. It will be interesting to see how the Cubans handle this years July 26 invitations.

But the immediate purpose of this note is to ask if you Reg, particularly if you are still convalescing, could do some work on our constitution in preparation for the convention. I recall you have some very definite ideas as to its revision and it is about time we acted on this. I assume that there are copies out there. Could you take this on and start a correspondence on it with me.

Hope this note finds you in better health

fraternally
Ross

June 23, 1965

Vancouver

Dear Ernie;

A starter to let you know that we are still in business here and that I am not waiting until you arrive to say anything. Been unbelievably tied up.

John R took his holidays and Pat has been having to put overtime in a job which she took for reasons that appear now in her own mind quite unclear. The result is that I have been in the store more than ever before--and here we are involved in a titanic moving operation. If it wasn't for the fact that George Bryrant has been unemployed and one of the youth, Barry Stone, has quit work and made himself available I do not know how we would have done it.

That's a funny episode--Pat's taking a job. One day I tell her that a fellow has been in the store asking for her and she says oh yes that's my former boss who wants me to come back and work on a part time basis. I had just been going through quite a conflict with her through her very cavalierly deciding that she was going to go on the Vanguard tour this year with Toni and three other girls she could muster. I told her that it was absurd--her Toronto organizer only elected about 7 months perviously checking out on a national tour--on top of that encouraging the youth organizer to do likewise. After much argument I thought I had convinced her yet ~~xxx~~ when the arrangments committee came to ~~xxxx~~ consider candidates her name is still there . The committee of course said it was not competent to decided as the the availability of candidates and so Pat let it go right to the Political committee to knock her off. This created a bad atmosphere in the branch--the old woman question riasing its head. But it also created a bad relationship between us. When this job proposition came to my attention- inadvertently and the thing seemd signed sealed and ~~xxxx~~ delivered I concluded that Pat was in her way tell us that she was checking out. We are not hard up financially--in fact a few weeks before Pat had said something to Carson that it was getting pretty bad for us dues and pledge wise since we had so much money in the bank. And of course Pat knows how I have been trying to get out of the store so that we could try and build a national movement. The executive doesn't open its mouth and so with one blow the organizer goes off the payroll-~~xxxx

have been built but so far I haen't found time to organize e nd put things on them.

I would have liked to have carried a discussion on the Student tour cancellation. I thought the statement was very good, the right tone. So did WFW. The reasons, the explanation of course is not develop d and I think that we have no real purpose in developing it. We are not interested in wrangling over the matter with anyone--the Maoists, the CP or even Cuban officials here who of course are trying to find some other explanation We would like it seems to me to ~~rhenx~~ turn the page and move forward, even though it is going to be difficult. We have had a discussion and are agreed that a bulletin must come out and that the July 26 affair be a big one and that we set ourselves other projects. The response across the country has generally been understanding--accepting the explebation. But of course the matter cant be ended ~~with~~ like that for we are dealing with a living revolution--a changing situation.

There is no doubt that conservative forces have been strenthened by the US invasion of the Dominican Republic and even more so by the failure of the Soviet and Chinese bureaucracy to comevacross with the Vietnamese. Where would Cuba stand in the face of a serious American move--what could it expect. For some years the Fidelistas have t ied to balance between the Chinese and the Russians --the more radical line of the Chinese permitted them to resist Russian pressures. But on the Vietnamese sit ation the Chinese have shown themselves to be hopeless factionalists and talkers. I suppose you are aware of Chuuen lai's affimration to Ben Bella that they had prevented Soviet materiel from moving across Chinese terriroty to the Vietnamese.. Even more inofmration is coming to light. It appears that the Latin American CP's had become committed to a conference in Havana prior to the fall of K and it went off. Following the conference a delegation visited Mao and it is reported that Mao attacked the Cubans as being apologists of the the Kremlin and its rotten soft policy with Wall Street. It appears that he went so far as to call Castro a coward.. The Cubans hardly ceritting such statements sent Guevarra to see Mao--but Mao refused to even see him. This is probably what is behind Castro's attack against Mao as a senile old man to the students that Vern heard avout The Kosygin gang are puting the squeeze on the Cubans--it appears recently there was a wheat shortage in Havana but a Soviet boat lodeded with wheat remained in the harbor for over a week. I am giving you this information and in fact the PC has agreed to my making a short report to the branch in confidence more or less . We will publish material of this type at some appropriate occasion. There have been tendencies to wards defeatism about the prospect in Cuba--more has been made of the tour cancellation then is wearanted and we wnat to overcome this. We need nothing so much as a success for the line most identified with Che--say in Bolivia

Got the photo from the early days. Very good. You havent got the right man identified as Spector--- he is the next man along as I recall it. Can be very useful in the future--as you know sooner or later we are going to find time to write about the early days of the movement. Just as we are going to have to find time to write about the early trade union struggles.

I recall that you raise the matter of Malcolm. As I understood it you accepted his resignation from the branch. I have the understanding that in reality this ended the whole unfortunate affair. If I am not mistaken the consitution says that a persons has to be a member of the functioning branch in the area that he resides in order to reamin or be a member of the party. What do you think that the PC or NC should now do? I havent heard from Ruth or Reg on this matter.

It is now almost [illegible] ely Re

July 5, 1965

Vancouver (Bullock ✓ (pc member)

Dear Ruth

Thanks for the copy of the letter that you have addressed to the federal executive committee of the NDP

I of course agree with the main line of the argument in the letter. However there are certain aspects around the letter which are not clear to us.

The letter is addressed to the executive although it does not ask that they take any action with regards to the expulsions. It expresses your hope that they "may be able to bring some reason into this whole situation." Possibly it is not more concrete and is given to express such a platitutde as we both know that the brass invested the matter of membership in the NDP to provincial sections and thus is not at all required to intervene in such matters and in this case certainly will not do so

This letter will of course be filed away with probably few of even the executive seeing it. I therefore conclude that you have drawn it up for general distribution to the delegates attending the convention--probably by one of our expelled here in Toronto since you yourself are compelled to hold the fort in Vancouver these days.

I understand that the expulsions are going to be raised by others--I hear that Macey has written something on them for circulation. Probably you know that the left caucus has included in its statement that will be distributed its irreconcilable opposition to such expulsions. So probably what we are confronted with here when you ask our opinion is whether we think it advisable for our forces in the left caucus circulating the letter and if possibly utilizing it to raise the whole matter on the floor if they manage to get the opportunity

while we have done some big and good work preparatory for this convention the left will will be pitifully weak at this convention--with little strength over and above our own forces. We can by no means anticipate anything like the response no matter how successful we might be in maneuvering the question on the floor that you comrades won in BC where of course you were long entrenched and had the opportunity to address a convention which was torn with rivalries. The fact that we have been deprived of any constitutional grounds and in fact would have to violate the constitution will give the broader left in so far as it exists the out that they would seek--and the whole thing would have to be carried by quite weak and vulnerable forces

These problems are not in themselves grounds for dediding not to push the matter. But it seems to us to be highly questionable as to whether there is anything at all to be gained in this area. In fact there have been some recent developments in the Toronto area which would tend to reinforce the tendency in the braod left to divest themselves of any responsibilties in this area--and to sustain any tendency that they may have that we are trying to revive a struggle that they think has been settled at the

stage--a struggle which we have a special, even sectarian interest in.. It is now well known among leftists that many ~~xxxxx~~ identified with the LSA and heretofore on a black list and refused membership have quite recently been admitted to membership. A few weeks ago a very prominent youth leader who had been expelled was allowed to appear before the youth executive and by an overwhelming majority they voted that the party leadship should reinstate him to membership.

Considering all this I do not think that we should carry your letter any further than it has in all probability gone, at this time. At this stage I think that its main value is that it winds up the struggle and will serve as a point of reference in the future.

I am holding these notes until I can show them to the rest of the PC members

Fraternally

Ross D.

July 7--- Jerry is working shift but managed to get down to read this letter over --he is in general agreement. Cliff was in tonight and expressed his general agreement. We have been tied up in knots over the past week what with the NDP convention preparations, our youth convention prepefations, the Detroit school which saw almost 30 go and the final push to get our Trailblazer tour underway ---I went up to the job site on Friday all day and all day on Sunday so we were successful in launching the tour one month late on Monday. The fire that destroyed our first truck was a real setback. The tour will be swinging back into Toronto as the NDP convention wids up in order to head out for the north and Vancouver.

Thursday July 8, 1965
824 Yonge Street
Toronto

Trailblazers;

Dear Comrades;

Sorry to not have yet heard from you--although the fact is that every other tour which would have contacted us by now would have been asking for an advance on future sub prospects. I take it that the last issue was good enough and the territory sufficiently friendly to hold out the prospect of living off the land.

How is Stone, Schulz and Modlich making out subwise? You will have to go easy with the novices for a while

I hope when you got around to opening the packages of books that you found the selection adequate.--and that you found the list of all the literature that you have. I immediately sent off for more Labor's Giant Step which you need as an entre to union offices--also for more ~~xxxxx~~ of the Sid Lens book. The ISR with the article on Existentialism should be in shortly. Too bad that we had no copies of The Age of Permanent Revolution. I was hoping that this would be solved any day but last week as possibly you know we got the word from the pocket book publishers that they will not sell us at the 40% we seek.

Just in case you have found the utensil situation tight I have sent off in the mail a whole set of extremely fine cutting knives. These come from Lois. The $100 in M.O.'s enclosed and made out in Hans' name is what we oew him for the advance to GB for the truck--they are cashable either in Lnodno or Toronto. Sent a parcel off to London in advance of this letter with IB'S in it and another will follow with another SWP IB the last Militant which I am not sure you took along, the Left Caucus call and a couple of Saskatchewan Commonwealth's. When you leave London be sure to put in a forwarding address --in this case I guess Toronto. That is Chinese or Japanese cured kelp as Harry will no doubt know in the small package in this letter. Now you know what OXO cubes are really made of~~x~~. This is a gift from Bob Horn who was in here last weekend with the Montreal branch organizer, a Finish comrade names John ? In the next mail there will be a copy of the first tow documents for the world congress discussion. We are running them all off for the English reading sections. --about 56 stencils in all. A big job but Edith and Bob Silverman have come in for the summer and Edith has moved in bodly to get them out. One of them is almost done

Last night the first contingent from Vancouver arrived and this morning the second came in . Had them all working on the bulletins but tonight they have gone up to look over the youth house. Who knows we might get them to pitch in for a bit while they are here. They have already been pulled in to getting out the next issue of YSF which seems certain to be off in time for the youth convention.

What union saw its top leadership absent itself when the same proposed that they accept a wage freeze which the ranks turned down?

What two well-known hangers-on of 824 Yonge Street ~~xxxx

Who charges what groups of "revisionists" have been dealt a final and crushing blow by the coup in Algeria?

What important project got underway last week that it can be anticipated will have considerable impact on the future thinking of trade union militants and NDP activists

for the answer reverse page

Get with it
Read the Globe and Mail July 7 front page financial section
Read the Globe and Mail July 8 front page second section
Read the Newsletter July 3

warmest regards

Ross

July 13, 1965

Art Gray
c/o Sulmac Exploration Company
Alice Arm, B.C.

Dear Art;

Well you missed the Orange Order parade but it has got pretty skimpy over the years and I am sure this year y u would have found it hardly worth looking at even if you could have seen it from a comfortable patio with abeer in your hand.

But it is too bad you are missing the NDP convention. Of course the comrades are working very hard . We had a ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ fraction meeting last night after the convention and the left caucus meeting and it seems apparent to me that we will come out of this convention with fiarly firm and fairly good connections across the country--that we will be able to circulate an information bulletin that will hold the contacts we are making together and bring many much closer to us.~~xxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ The Socialist Caucus is operating out of a fine room just across the raad from the convention in the Royal York and if I recall correctly about 50 or more persons participated in its first meeting. ...among them some apparently good trade unionists from St Catherines We have more of our own people as delegates and alternates than we have had in all two previous conventions. The fraction did considerable preparatery work and we are much more prepared to intervene on the floor---which is qualitatively better than sniping from the corrider. If we play our cards right I think tommorrow we may be able to pull the entire convention out to picket the U.S. consulate re Vietnam.

As for the youth convention we managed to shove the whole thing to the left--we of course had a bit of help from the objective situation. But the right wing was very hard when it came to elections--and we lost down the line by 2 and five votes. So the leadership will of course be able to sit on the whole situation--however we will have left resolution and accepted policy statements to work out from.

I do not know the exact number of comrades who have comein from Ottawa, Kingston, Vancouver but there are a considerable number and they are of a high calibre. I was really suprised at the high standard of a contribution by one of the Montreal comrades to the left caucus bulletin. It was really brilliant. Douglas apparently found it necessary in his address to the youth to go out of his way to attack the left--the ddogmatists,as he put it. But this week I was able to see that we really are makeing strides to building a cadre

We finally mamanged to get the TRailblazer tour off on the road a week ago yesterday. They are now in London and will be swinging into Toronto at the end of this week to attend our youth convention and pick up Lyle before they head north and on their way to BC.

Took time out to see what we had in Alice Arm in the sub files. We had two names--

Ron Puttnam
c/o Torbit Silver Mine

and Peter Neilsen who I see Reg Bullock of Vancouver thought also worked at Torbit Mine and had been a reader of our press for years. Neither have been getting our paper for years now. You might find out next time you are in Alice Arms if that mine is still in operatiom. Possibly they are quite far out and would be extremely difficult to meet anyway.

Fantastic how much cut off you are--not even radio. I am wondering if it would not be worth while my getting you the weekend Globe and Mail sent up to you. Yes. I tend to agree with you that you shouldn't get material that would if seen by your fellow workers mark you . Life would be really miserable if there were a couple of real bigots in the party. Dont know how much daylight you have and how much time but if you are ok that way it would seem to me to be an excellent opportunity to read some basic standard books that we all should read but have to put aside because of the need to read others. For instance Science and Civilization ,The Rise of American Civilization, Ulysses, etc. If you have anything in mind dont hesitatte te ask us to write. I could loan some of this material to you.

Thesituation is getting worse in Vietnam. While it is true that opposition is mountingacerss the world and particularly in the US the Chinese and Russia have been continuing to let the US get away with their bombing of North Vietnam and the destruction of years of human labor but they have been continuing to let them build up their strength in S Vietnam and thus so far successfully block the Viet Cong from achieving the victory that we in their grasp and to further destroy valuable resources. The State department has certainly taken the measure of the Soviet leadership---the Chinese havent even forced a guarantee from the Sovietx bureaucracy that they will stand behind them with the nuclear bomb. The main responsibility lies with the Kremlin and Peking leaderships but revolutionairies acerss the world are going to have to step up their pressure. I hope we can pull that demonstrationoff tommorrow--a small contribution from the point of view of the need but probably the best we can hope to achieve in Canada at this time.

We are tryiny to get a film from the National Liberation Front that we can take into the various Western towns on the Trailblazer tour---this should make it possible for us to gather a meeting of the best types--even highly successful meetings

Drop me a line if I can send you anything.

fraternally

Ross

July 23, 1965

Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Ruth (Bullock)

Your letter with the copy of Progressive Worker and Malcolm's article in it arrived a day or so---just about the last peice of mail we received before the strike. We already have at hand your letter to the PC and Malcolm and your related correspondence. Last night Roger Perkins joyfully announced as he was selling their paper outside our hall that it contained an article by Malcolm Bruce

I haven't taken your letter up with the PC as we had mmm a meeting just last Sunday while two of the leading Montreal comrades were in town. I will present it to them for the next meeting. However I have had a talk with Ernie as you know from his letter to you. And now we have this article in Progressive Worker

It is my opinion that we should now drop the whole matter. Although I must say I do not understand what you mean when you say in your latest note that enclosed the Progressive Worker that Malcolm is "a now member of the LSA." He resigned from the NC. We accepted it. Then he resigned from the branch as I understood things and you accepted that. Then I do not know how he is a member. When a person resigns from th branch in the locality where he works and lives he in effect resigns from the movement itself. He is no longer under the disciplne of any organ of the movement--making no contribution to the movement etc etc.

Am I right in assuming that there is some misunderstanding about this and am I not right in my belief that he is no longer a member?

On the assumption that I am right I intend to propose that we do nothing about Malcolm. Of course I hope that some of us can see thir way clear to keep in touch with him occassionaly but this is a fraternal action on our part and has nothing to do with any formal league relationship. Malcolm makes this difficult with all his small talk and venom against comrades in the movement but I am hoping that despite this which is extremely distasteful that some of the comradescan manage to keep in touch with him.

If he were a member we would be required to take action against him for writing in the organ of an opponent political tendency. I always felt it unfortunate that he wrote for Press but then he could justify that with the argument that Press people were in the NDP even though it was questionable as to its relationship to the NDP .Yes he would never write for the Vanguard. It ispossible that hisd desire to see a Caost paper had something to do with that. But it has long been my belief that he was unpreapred to acceptthe editorial pencil on his writings. And of course he had good grounds to anticipate that the pencil would come into play for he has for a long time disagreed with us on many matters--taking a generally consistantsectarian line.

While I have been preparedto do what you comrades think necessary to open the door to him for a better relationshipfor it is truly unfortunate

to see our relationship so deteriorate so close to the end of what has been such a generally fine controbution to the class struggle in in this country-- I must say I have had some misgiving. While it is true that we are dealing with a man who has been detericrating and who has lost a vital balancing factor in Mabel and we all have quite correctly a strong sentimental attachment to him he is above all a political man in the hardest meaning of the word.

I have felt all along that there has been no misunderstanding between us. I do not want to work over old ground but he wrote what we said he did---it is true that he did not act on it and when he continued not to act on it of course it is a small matter for us to say ok it was all a misunderstanding --and I myself would apologize without any reservations whatsoever. But Malcolm did not want any apology but what he did was to widen the gap all down the line---and on strictly political grounds. He of course disagrees with our main line in this country--our oreitnation to the NLP. But he goes farther-- he repeats in the most offensive way the stupidities of Healy and company against our intern ational orientation and of course the slanders and distortions that are being tossed against the SWP. He has in every letter that I recall that in anyway dealt with the Press incident always tossed in several stink bombs against the SWP etc. I have just reread his last letter to you---quite a revolting . But aside from this---can anyone honestly believe that he is looking for a way back---that anything that I could write an apology,assuming even full responsibility would satusfy him. And this letter is not qualitatively different from the others.

I told Arnie prior to his writing his last letter that I felt very unease about writing a letter of apology to him and trying to clear away the mess--and believe me not through any feeling of pride---but because I felt that we were not dealing with him on the proper plane---that we are dealing with him as a dying warrior--who incidently is far from dead--and not as a political being who has wide disagreements with us of a basically sectarian nature.

Now with this controbution to Progressive Labor I think that we should turn the page---that is of course based on my belief that he is not a member of the LSA and that he is neither responsible to us nor we to him

fraternally

Ross

July 26, 1965

Roving Branch

Dear Comrades;

Hope you got the papers shipped to ~~Sudbury~~ Kirkland Lake in a carton with the enclosed materials....and of course that you got the film out ok. The electronic stencil may be a little tricky to get off the drum without strippers but one way to help get the paper off the drum is to not tear all the backing off right up to the perforated line but leave an inch or so on --not too much of course so it burts the printing of the first line--about the shwoing of the film.

I am anticipating now that the mail is out that you will be phoning in ocassionally so that we know what is going on. For instance as I now make up these parcels with Ernie for Timmins where you say you will be by the 30th, I am hoping that you will phone us either by then or at the latest by August 1st. Then should you have overrun these parcels at Timmins you will be able to send someone back with the truck to pick them up. see August 1st and second still sees you in the north before you head out for the lakehead. That means that it is worthwhile heading back should you over-run the papers at Timmins and that the odds are you will phone.

Did you get Radio Havana tonight--and did Guevrara make the speech as I am guessing.

Helen and Lloyd went into Cuba --and got the cold shoulder from ICAP ---left on their own with the possibility after the 26th that ICAP may look after them in so far as a hotel is concerned. Of course it is a terrible expesne to pay their own hotel, meals etc. so they will be cutting their visit short having accomplished much of what they went down for anyway.

The Vietnam magazine is the only copy--I have ordered 50 for you but of course there is no mail. The US authorities are holding all second class mail on their side. I am afraid we are not going to be able to send you the ISR's the YS's etc that we wanted for sometime

So we are now phoning Vancouver to tell them to send you all their copies of the Vietnam YS pamphlet--all their ISR's, all their YSK's particularly the one with the article on Permanent Revolution in Vietnam---to send them to you in Winnipeg which I see you will hit around the 9th.

But I want to get these papers off in the express and it is 11;30 now

wermest regards

Ross

4 parcels Xpress CNR
Hemmings
with Mail in parcel one

(Do DATES) E4 1965-67 BC + ONT TOURS Oct. 1965 in four corresp

Dear Lyle; (S)

Welcome back onto the tour. Hope they have filled you in on the scene--the Winnipeg showing, how everything panned out in Regina and Moose Jaw. And that you have done likewise with your experiences. Heard about your words of advise to the tour re the Indian project and the interest and commitment to it of the Prairie left. Well let me tell you--I hope none of you show very much interest in the Doukabhor project. I am a little worried as it is now and as to how they will influence Roebuck and others in their future passive resistance activity, for as you know the Doukhabor's have lone embellished passive resistance with nudity.

Engler

Alan has written that no one can join the tour on your way into Vancouver. But with Hans leaving early and possibly Alex it seems to me that we should really push to have someone come back with us. The truck is completely weatherized and of course we have big campus opportunities not to speak of film showing opportunities in the Soo and Sudbury.

Suppose you know Karen is back--she is staying with Pat M at the youth house. I have an idea that one of her letters to you is wrapped up in the parcel that you over-run in Timmins.

fraternally Ross

(Schultz)

Dear Peter

It was good to receive your very fine report the other day. We will be reading it to the branch tonight--in about 45 minutes. I have used a considerable part of it as the basis of the arti cle in the coming issue of the paper. The enclosed is to make up for the parcel in the missing four bundles that were overrun in Timmins. They should refresh everyone for the rest of the Prairie run until you get to the Rockies and the coast.

fraternally Ross

Dear Hans; (M)

From where I sees it ,it doesn't look to me as if anyone has fallen. Did you see Peter's most excellent report. I have tkane portions of it for the coming issue of the paper. No, No. dont ~~knnnx~~ leanr that from your experience---"I'm learning to accept comrades the way they are." You have to look at everything dialectically--even humans. Everyone is sibject to change and development. But of course everyone has limitations--- There is a little matter of judgement, of trying to assess the present capacities of persons and project their possibilities. ~~Thnnn

Friday August 6, 1965
1 Cumberland, Toronto

Dear Maralyn and Bob;

When I received your note and cheque yesterday I thought good--this gives me an excuse to write to you. I have been quite dissapointed that on the various ocassions you have been into Toronto ~~that~~ we have not been able to get together for a discussion. I know that when you have come around you have usually found me busy--but next time you come in why not phone me at once and then we could allocate some time. There is lots to talk about of ccurse but I am particularly anxious Bob to talk to you about what you will be doing in the next period. I believe that the general opinion of the leading youth comrades here is that we are on the verge of making some real breakthoughs--- probably this was apparent at the YS convention. And of course we all know that you are one of our cadre, and together can play a big role.

We finally got a phone call a few days ago from the Trailblazers --from Peter S in Port Arthur. This was the first break in a long silence--primarily due to the postal strike but also I suppose to a certain feeling of embarassment since theyfeel that they have not done as well as they should have or as we expect. But it takes a couple of weeks to get into the groove and while they are not paying their way by any means it seems to me that they are doing well. Last night was the first time they ~~had~~ showed the film that we managed to pick up--a film put out by the National Liberation Front of Vietnam taken from behind the battle lines. This should really open up things for us. In stead of having to work very hard to ferret out the militants--with this they should come to us . The rudio warned the good citizens of Sudbury of their arrival as they came in.. and I understand that the NDP has set up a network of phone call warnings.

But now we have the latest issue of the New Democrat. I am enclosing it as it is possible you won't see it for a while. A scandalous item but perhaps the most important part is that section at the bottom the the third column under More Radical---a warning to leftists that they better conduct themselves in a manner that it acceptable to the right or they will be smeared as Trotskyists with whom there is going to be war to the death. We are agreed that its purpose is to hit in quickly against the various leftists who identified themselves with the Socialist Caucus--to break up the caucus and if that proves impossible to create an extremely hostile atmosphere against any of its supporters who would attempt to circulate its statement amongst club members. At least we are going to act on that understanding. Of course it may be the opening gun in an expulsion drive--from the point of view of argument it seem to me to be so crude as to make it useless from the point of view of influencing left inclined workers but it would serve to whip upper fightists in order to take action against us.

The Montreal postal workers actions are truly inspiring eh! I would have never beleived that they would unanimously refuse the Pearson offer. Meyer played an excellent role here among the most conservative elements--it was he who made the motion at the inside workers Sunday meeting for a strike vote that would be immediately operative.

fraternally

Ross

Jean R

E

August 6th, 1965
i Cumberland St
Toronto

Dear Alan;

Tell Jean that I received her contribution to the coming issue of the paper ok. Very good---there has been almost nothing about the demonstration in the press here.

What have you in mind for the coming issue on the BC scene? I am now working on the paper and would want anything you have here by the latest Monday morning next---and earlier if it is at all possible. It is not crucial that we have an item from Vancouver but it is certainly desireable. If a lot of things built up while you were away or you think there is nothing of real importance let me know as soon as possible so that I can make other plans. And even if there is no major item we can always use something for trade union or arnound the NDP notes.

What even the situation drop me a note if possible by next mail.

Hope you got the Ontario New Democrat ok. It is for all its crudity going to have some effect on our work--particularly the paragraphs starting at the bottom the the third column. It appears to us to be designed to make it very difficult for the new contacts we managed to make with the Socialist Caucus to distribute the caucus statement and to spread out. It is not going to influence any leftists but rather tend to isolate them--it could also be designed to hot up rightists in preaparation for expulsions. The whole issue is a scandal and certain to rouse wide uneasiness---the snipers cynical comments in the preamble to his change ing the word water to wisky---and all the blah about money

Who would have thought the Montreal postmen would be so militant

Havent heard much from the tour--should be in Winnipegwhen you get this. Understand they were goin to show the National Liberation Front film in Port Arthur

But will write later--incidently Curtis Distributors--agents for Pocketbooks, Cardinal, Washington Square and Ballantyne have come through --much to my relief

fraternally

Ross

August 9, 1965
1 Cumberland
Toronto 5, Ontario

The McDonnell's
Box 11, Cascade P.O.
B.C.

Dear Comrades;

I have just received your letter---your long awaited letter.---- and hasten to reply. It was certainly good to hear from you after such a long silence. I had got to fear that the "man with the scythe" was upon you, so it is very welcome to hear that you are both beating him off. What with your very youthful spirit and the ~~mamm~~ much talked of balmy weather in the valley there I was convinced you would go on for ever. Max Armstrong was telling me the other day that he is now 83. He looks well and says he feels well--running on glycerene tablets --scarcely misses a forum---and his last contribution on historical materialism was excellent

Of course we will be in to see you this summer---either on the way out to Vancouver or on the way back. I am not too sure how they will lay our the course. This time it will be a veritable invasion---there are six comrades on the tour--with a brand new truck outfitted to handle all their needs. ~~xxxxxxxx~~ Last year it was an all girl tour--limited to Ontario. We almost ~~had~~ made this tour an all women one but this would have required releasing from their responsibilities our two organizers. The organizer of our youth group is a young woman and the organizer of the Toronto LSA is of course Patricia Mitchell. So we had to settle for a man tour.

Incidentlly you apparentlly did not notice---we have moved again. This time our whole operation is at

824 Yonge Street
and or 1 Cumberland Street

The store is one Yonge Street ~~on~~ the corner of Cumberland which perhaps you will recall is the first street north of Bloor on the west side. And this time the hall which is back of the store has a completely sep arate entrance on Cumberland Street. So we are using the Yonge Street number for the store and the Cumberland number for the LSA, the paper and the forum. So you see we are right off the main Toronto thoroughfare Our youth now are operating out of their own headquarters which is on Cecil Street along the street from the Communist Party. We have rented a house there and fixed it up as apartments and a headquarters. And it is an excellent place about two blocks down from the University of Toronto campus--one of our main areas of activity for the youth.

It has been a hectic spring and summer with all this expansion--and not content with this we are getting a modest [illegible] into operation. We have a printing press and a vari[illegible]-so t[illegible]s fall will see us print[illegible] r hop pamphlet--that

I hope you hear from Joe and the Llyodminster comrades ocassionaly. Joe is heading off for a vacation in Germany--I gave him some names to drop in on. Claude Patterson has moved out uite effectively against the US aggression in Vietnam. The daughter of one of the Lloydn comrades sent me a copy of an ad that he inserted in the local paper protesting the wouter-revolutionary intervention there which was paid for and signed by some of the community's best known people.

East month we all had a chance to get a picture of the growth of our influence in Vancouver and the expansion of our youth connections into many other points. Our youth had a conven ion----but the comrades who will be visiting you shortly will be able to tell you all about it.

I am rushing this note out to let you know that I received yours and in the hope that you will find the time to keep in touch with us on a regualr basis and not leave us guessing how you are and what you are doing.

fraternally

Ross Dowson

August 14, 1965

Roving Branch

Dear Comrades;

A hurried note in response to a couple of matters raised in a letter we received from Hans and one from Harry this morning:

One – the papers you overran in Timmins… I have mailed off 400 copies of the last issue in bundles of one hundred via the mail – to you in Regina. They should be there by Tuesday at the latest which I take it is okay since you are holding a show there.

Two — Dick tells me that he left you a note about his seeing another National Liberation Front film of later vintage and better than the one you have. I gather he told you how you could possibly get hold of it. Let me know the score on this. We here in Toronto are thinking of moving out on our own on Vietnam now. We have spent months pushing and prodding others to do something. Last week – Hiroshima day, SUPA and SNIC were supposedly committed to a modest teach-in but at the last moment cancelled it. The Quaker crew are obviously not going to do anything. So it came to mind that we might be able to hold a big showing of a top flight film. What did you find out and what did you do. Would you reply on this matter early.

Three — John G after meeting Bill L— in Winnipeg – did I give him shit for not shelling out more dough, Bill – but he said that was al he had. – said you had a bit of a hassle in PA with a projector that you rented. Did you get my note about what National Film Board told me – that in any city that we are possibly holding a showing NFG has placed a first class projector in the main library – available to the public. The rent would be very low and I am sure if they are reluctant to loan them to passers-thro that we could get one of our contacts to put forward his name as the borrower.

Four — see you came across the Cuban statement on the tour. And this morning I see that the Tribune (the Canadian CP journal) which said not a word about Vern's statement (Vern Olson, Toronto FPCC Chair) has carried a long article on it. A few words as to our thinking on this matter. We would like to ignore anything that the Cubans would say about this; to let the whole thing ride and get with the job of popularizing the Cuban revolution. We do not want to conduct ourselves now that they have felt it necessary to make (a declaration), to get into any lengthy debate on this matter — that is just what some others would like us to do — they would 1ike us to drop the Cuban cause. The fact that we are the most dynamic, the most publicly identified with the Cuban revolution is continual source of embarrassment to them.

A couple of nights ago everyone involved got together and we discussed the whole thing. The bulletin should be out in a week or so — and it will contain Vern's statement — correction the statement is not Vern's or Beckerman's — it is the statement of Fair

Play (for Cuba Committee – FPCC) — the tour directorate — the FP executive — and we will be publishing the Cuban statement in full. There was some debate as to how we should proceed from there — some comrades thought we should do a real job on that crap about the committee being discouraged from the word go. The facts of course as you know are the contrary. But their argument leaves another matter open — then why did FPCC go ahead — what was its purpose?? to humiliate the revolution — to compromise itself, why? Then there is that crap about the unity of the revolution. This is a familiar line. The consul here not long after the Escalante affair carried the same line with me when got in a conversation about some of the internal difficulties of the revolution — he stupidly denied that there were any problems and disputes and disagreements . I laughed him out of the headquarters. This is out of the arsenal of classic Stalinism— you know all about the myth of Bolshevism — that Trotsky exposed in Lessons of October. Stalin tried to carry the line that the CPSU (Communist Party of the Soviet Union) was monolithic in its unity all during the revolution and immediately before — among other things this (claim) was used to justify suppressing minority opinion — opposition to his machinations and when anyone talked about the right of minorities he claimed this was in violation of the tradition of Bolshevism and in fact weakened the revolution when in actuality it was its democratic character, its preparedness to discuss and thrash everything out that made it possible to win all the best elements, to fuse (with) all its previous opponents of varying degrees into one fighting Bolshevik party. So the Cubans are carrying the same line. Incidentally if you have a copy of "Revolution Betrayed" by Trotsky, in the introduction (you will see in) the epilogue comments on the friends of the Soviet Union who think that we should shut up about the difficulties of the Soviet Union — very powerful arguing.

The net result of our discussion was that we would limit the reply in the bu1letin to these two points — that rotten suggestion that the FP statement repeats the lies of imperialism on differences in the revolution — I forget the exact words — and the crap about discouraging the tour from the beginning — and just a words at that. We felt that much had to be said — then pick up the comment that the tour has only been postponed by hailing it and affirming that FP is looking forward to participating to the full in this next tour. A good re-affirmation of our solidarity with the revolution.

There is a big newsstand in Regina — go and see if you can get the August 2 issue of THE NATION. There is an article in that issue by Huberman (Leo) on his recent trip there. An established friend because of his book etc. In this article he affirms the information that Vern gave us about the suppression of dissident opinion in the student circles. He talks of the purge of 50 students in the Faculty of Technology and the medical School and says "Among my most ardent revolutionary friends, however, I found no one who approved of the purge – all agreed that it was stupid, unjust and self-defeating in that it would create more enemies of the revolution. Some attributed it to the immaturity and 'left-wing infantilism' of the leadership; others were less tolerant — and quite fearfu1."

If you cannot get a copy let me know and I will send you ours. I would send it on at once but I want to be sure that Vern O. can get one.

And a last word – again – of course we – all of us – have no money but it would be a scandal if you comrades on the tour go without necessities – should you fail to write for money if you need it. Last night I had a $2.50 supper – wine topped off with a Drambuie. My sister paid for it.

Next issue will have an insert – will carry the last issue of the (US Trotskyist) Militant article by (Fred) Halstead on the root causes of the war in Vietnam plus some of the programmatic documents from the June 14 movement of the Dominican Republic. This will be good to put in the issue that you have with you when you hit the campuses on the way back.

Diane starts her course on the varityper Monday.

Warmest regards,

(signed) Ross

Communication to Montreal, the LSO, August 17, 1965 from the Political Committee LSA

The P.C. at its meeting of August 17 had an extended discussion on the situation in Montreal following a report by Brock and the reading of some correspondence from Faulkner.

It records its profound dissapointment over the continued failure of la Lutte Ouvriere to appear.

It affirms its previous opinion that it is advisable to drop from the masthead of future issues the line reading organe officiel de la ligue socialiste ouvriere.

Our agreement with the immediately above proposition is not predicated on acceptance of or agreement with a proposition of entry into any other organization. By so doing we will be bringing La Lutte into line with the policy adopted by The Workers Vanguard and The Militant. This act we understand will make it easier to circulate the paper, particularly get it onto newsstands and remove an unnecessary barrier to investigation and acceptance of our ideas.

While we Trotskyists are extremely flexible when it comes to organizational forms we have always firmly upheld the necessity of maintaining a public organ--agitational, propagandist and if necessary, clandestine, and all that that entails. The one ocassion that the Canadi movement, involved in an entry into the CCF ceased publication of its press has always been considered a grave error by leading members of our world movement, although we had very quickly commenced the publication of a rash of bulletins that advanced on a limited basis many aspect of our transitional program, and had at our disposal both the Militant and the Fourth International. If there are any circumstances that make it possible to consider violating this principle it seems to us that they do not exist in Quebec where there is no publication in the French language that could be considered in anyway whatsoever as providing a substitute for a publication of our own, advancing our own ideas.

Without a press we would to all intents and purposes cease to have any concrete existence. It is necessary to deploy sufficient forces to assure the regular publication of La Lutte Ouvriere. La Lutte must be published regardless of technical difficulties, regardless of mistakes that inevitable arise from our lack of French cadre, in grammar and in style, and regardless of the relative immaturity of the forces who have taken on that collosal responsibility of building a revolutionary socialist party in Quebec based on the Quebec workers; what might be considered their inexperience in making a profound and meaningful analysis of the Quebec scene itself. While we of course aim to achieve the publication of a paper of the highest Marxist and technically professional standard difficulties in meeting these standards at the moment have never stopped us from moving into this area Indeed there is no other way of overcoming our shortcomings in this respect other than to commence to move boldly into this area of activity.

Over the past year the LSO has accrued valuable cadre. But its most significant achievement one really holding out the possibilities of sinking roots into the French Canadian working class, was in our opinion the publication of La Lutte Ouvriere. To be sure it revealed our póverty of French forces--in its style and its grammar. To be sure the shortage of material on Quebec itself prevented it from being as useful as we would desire. But its publication demonstrated our seriousness and our intent. It is only through a French language publication that we can hope to attract French speaking workers. Armed with La Lutte a comrade incapable of expressing the simplest thought in French has the possibility of addressing himself to workers attending union meetings, participating in demonstrations, etc. If for various reasons we were even restricted to the publication of material that

has already been translated into French by the world movement, manifestoes, declarations on events of international importance, this itself would be a solid achieement.

It is our considered opinion that the publication of La Lutte Ouvriere takes top priority over all other aspects of our work in Quebec. Despite our slender resources we have placed excellent technical means at your disposal. If there is anything else that we can do to assure the continued publication of La Lutte you can be sure that we will do it.

With regards to other publications projects. Having solved the primary task, the publication on a regular basis of La Lutte Ouvriere, we agree that efforts should be made to supplement it with appropriate pamphlet material.

We agree with Faulkner's proposal that as soon as possible we take on as a pilot project the publication of some appropriate material that has already appeared in print in the French language. Comrade JD is totally familiar with electronic stencil work and there is considerable material available. We have turned over all the French language material we had accumulated over the years. You should consider appointing someone to go through it and list it. While the chapter on the Law of Combined and Uneven Development is important there is other material that you might consider more urgent---Trotsky on the national question, the Negro Struggle,etc.

Incidently the electronic stencil process requires minimum space and facilities. On the basis of our experience we think that a practical press run is 1,000. It is a small matter to re-issue. This is not an excessive run as newsprint is cheap

We will of course make every effort to co-ordinate a publications program with other sections of our movement --in this case with our French speaking comrades. In order to get an idea of the scope of their participation we will require a specific proposition and possible alternatives. We would stress however that such a program as you visualize should not be based primarily on what others can use but on our own needs. For various reasons we have found English speaking sections unprepared to take extensive numbers of our publications.

As far as we can estimate at this time the press here will not be in operation until some time in October. It is of course at your service in so far as we can make it so with our limited operational forces. We will send you all the data you request on our facilities as soon as possible.

We understand that a discussion is now opening up on our orientation to Part Pris. This matter is indeed a complex one. Anything over and above our all taking out individual membership in the movement requires us to exercise extreme caution.

Part pris appears to be seriously directing itself towards developing a working class base.---but this is as yet music of the future. Its public organ is outside of the control of the movement and completely intellecutalist in its appeal--although these problems may be overcome to some extent with the developments around Quebec Libre. We understand that the program now being considered is in many ways classically reformist

Another serious problem in respect to any consideration of entrism is the fact that the movement is French speaking and our cadre is as yet English speaking

Before any moves in this respect are made it seems obvious to us that t ere must be a full and well documented discussion. We are looking forward to participating in such a discussion.

September 24, 1965
x&kx 824 Yonge Street
oronto 5, Ont.

Arch Callahan
NFLD

Dear Arch;

Fred tells me that you are a man of few words and even fewer letters. But here we are all anxious to know if the bittle projectcame off---and if you were able to carry it off what was the reaction.

I have a feeling that you did manage to carry out the distribution to some degree. On September 12 the wife of one of thecomrades just happened to tune in or listen in on a radio report. She got only a snatch --but she thinks she heard something to the effect that authorities were now investigating the distribution of a leaflet---and she is fairly sure it had to do with some incident in St Johns.

So give us the word.

And what do you think generally of the possibility of contactin Portuguese who come in from the fleet on occassion

fraternally

Ross Dowson

enclosing a self addressed envelope to expedite your reply

Thursday
August 26, 1965

Roving Branch;

Dear Comrades;

You have received the telegram informing you of the arrival of Ernie at Edmonton either Saturday or Sunday. He left late last night. Phil went with him as he wanted to get to Vancouver--it spossible he will not go up to Edmonton but get out at Calgary.

We had a discussion about various aspects of the tour and decided that it would be a good idea to ad another comrade to your ranks. One of the reasons was Harry's report of Lyle's leaving the tour and your decision that ~~xx~~ after the harvest he return back to Toronto . There appears to be some doubt about Alex but with his possible leaving the tour with Hans within the next ten days or so we felt that t he three remaining comrades would have a considerable responsibility thrust upon them for the tour back. In realization of that We noted that you sent us a series of proposals as to how the return should be effected most of them representing a considerable curtailment of the tour as we had visualized it

We see the trip back as important as the trip out.I was unaware of the discussions that appear to have taken place in the youth about a campus tour by John R this Fall. We had a discussion about this upon receipt of your Saskatoon letters and John informed us that it appeared now to be pretty well excluded. his means that we should attempt to carry the trip back more or less along the lines previously contemplated. That is --it should concentrate on university campuses.

Fortunately the truck is weatherized so that we can contemplate no trouble in respect of a premature cold snap. To our knowledge there is no particular time pressure on you Harry, Bill and Peter.

We think that the trip now should slow down a bit and work on ~~xxxxxx~~ more in depth on its way into Vancouver. It should be possible to put on a showing in Trail-Rossland-~~xxxxxxxxx~~another at Kamloops if you think it adviseable to hit up that far, perhaps one at Kimberley Cranbrook. You may consider it adviseable to hold one or another of these on the way back. At anyrate we can see little purpose in staying in Vancouver other than to take advantage of the opportunity to relax away from one another look over the sites, cast a few good meals sleep in several mornings and of course have a meeting for the forum

It should be possible to move inkm on campus life the last week in Spetember. Since two of you are ex-campus men and Peter has worked extensively with comrades active in this area it should not be hard to get Ernie into the swing of things--move in on the campus papers for interviews, arrange hasty debates ,hold a viewing of the Vietnam film, soap box meetings on the edge of campus. With four comrades it should be possible to pick up a little money on the side from door to door sub work. Ernie is one of our most experienced sub getters and should b able to ease off some of the financial pressure.

Comrade Tate will make an extremely valuable contribution to the tour. He has already been on a couple --one of them with Bill.He has been a leading member of our movement for some years now, he had the privilege of attending the Trotsky school and has been organizer of the Vancouver branch. So he brings valuable experience to your ranks. By now you have no doubt begun to develop a few strains and possibly become a little tired. The addition of Ernie may well provide a little beef to the tour. For the comrades who have not had the pleasure of knowing Ernie I can say personally that it has always been a pleasure to wrok with him.

We have heard the unfortunate results of Alex exams. John has checked on Nyerson and it is not possible to get admission. If there are no pressing matter unkown to us we think that it would be excellent if Alex could see the tour right through

The latest issue of the Maoist press from Vancouver mentions that they have another film from Vietnam. All you reports lead us to believe that your film has just about had it. It would be good to put it into some repair shop in Vancouver first day you arrive if it is not too expensive. But of course it would also be good to negotiate a loan of the new film from the Vancouver Maoists. We got the projector so that they could hold their film nite here last week--and on several ocassions they have signified they wish to maintain a comradely relationship with us so it seem that we might well be able to negotiate the loan of the new film.

We are sending the new issue of the paper out to Vancouver.

How is your supply of literature for the tour back. The Vancouver store owes the Toronto store a fair amount of money as it might be possible without puting an undue strain on them to fill out your stock with their help. I think it would be a good idea to stok up on the Trotsky anathology. If Alan were to order a pile as soon as you got in he would have it in lots of time.It would also be good to have LT's Marxism in the US

In one of your letters you enquire about the case of Pat Brain. Comrade Tate can fill you in much better than I as he only a few days ago had a discussion with him

I have received several letters from you which have been much appreciated and will attempt to reply to them within the next few days.

We have the possibility of carrying out a big project Harry with the Portuguese when they come in for the unveling at St Johns. Would you inform me by return mail if it is possible to pick up the extra copies of the Second Declaration you stached away and where. Fred's brother has got three fellows who want to carry out the job.

with revolutionary greetings

Ross

824 Yonge Street
Toronto 5, Ont.
August 30, 1965

Tor Bay--St Johns East NFLD

Dear Arch

Collag

I did not know what was afoot when I got your phone call here until Fred came down and told me. I had noted that there was going to be a gathering of the Portuguese fleet for an unveiling of a statue some while back but did not see how we could do anything with it.

Harry Stone --a new acquaintance of ours hails from St Johns. He was down to visit his folks last summer and I gave him a batch of the Second Declaration of Havana by Castro in Portuguese to circulate amongst the sailors but unfortunately his old man is a wheel in the port there and put considerable pressure on him and so he was unable to get many into circulation. He put them aside someplace at some friends no doubt. Harry is now out in the West, Edmonton right now, with our Trailblazer tour. I have written him to find out if we can get t ose other copies of the Havana Declaration but have not heard from him. You may get some copies from Montreal as I have contacted them to see if they can obtain some

We have just run off on news print almost 2,000 copies of a manifesto published by a left group in Portugal called the Popular Action Front. It is a good statement generally along the same lines as we see things there. We would have liked to put out something by the Fourth International, however we have issued nothing in a manifesto statement for sometime on Portugal. Our comrades in Europe tell us that this is a promising current in the Portuguese socialist movement and quite close to us. One of our comrades who understands Portuguese is making some notes on a copy of the leaflets which I am enclosing so that you will have an idea of what you are distributing

I was very happy to hear that you are prepared along with a couple of friends to carry out this distribution. Our Portuguese here are really excieted. You might well cause an international incident of considerable importance. But of course our purpose is to get the leaflet and the declaration into as many Portuguese fishermen's hands as possible , expecting that some of them will take copies back with them into their communities where it can be reproduced into many copies. We wanted to put it onto onion skin paper but it would not go through our machine.

I think that you and your friends should be prepared for some interference. Small wood and his cronies will not like you to do this at all--after all here they are being wined and dined in freindship with the Portuguese government brass--with fascists. And you come along raising up this ugly truth. So the essence of the action is to get them out into as many hands as possible as fast as possible. Not only is it likely that offocials of various authorities assumed and otherwise will try to stop you but possibly Portuguese officials will try also. I do not know anything about regualtions in St Johns--some communities have by-laws prohibiting distributions--the big merchandise outfits dont like their tiny competitors ..then they have anti- litter by laws. For years they bothered us here pretending there were laws when there were none. We just went ahead as fast as we could and told hem nothing about any such regualtion and we were going to do it---all the time as we talked them off--and they could issue a summons if they wanted it--were going ahead.

I do not know what kind of helpers you will have--I hope that they are self confident and will bull their way [illegible] ows with

starting to distribute at any one point you should all get to good positions and then start at once--as fast as you can. Dont bother to talk to anyone---that is an old devise to stop us--dont talk, argue, explain but go right ahead. It would be good if the sailors are massed to move around the outside fast hadning them out and starting to distribute ay any one spot you shoul all get to good positions and then start at once--as fast as you can. Dont bothar to talk to anyone--that is an old devise to stop us--dont talk ,argue, explain-but go right ahead. It would be good if the sailors are massed to move around the outside fast handing them out as you move into the centre. The best way is to move boldly, brassily--giving no hint whatsoever that what you are doing could be objected to by anyone in his sane mind.

Of course the very fellows we are distributing to are going to be suprised--and some of them even frightened. We want them to put them into t eir pocket. and others not know that they have them--even think that they threw them away. Of course Salazar will have his spies amongst them--his informers--and there will be many frightened once they see it--more probably startled. So the idea is to move, move. As for talking, and action, once you do your bit--that will be up to them to decide--for them to determine who they can trust amongst them. We will have done our job getting the leaflet into as many hands as possible.

Nothing can happen to any of us Newfies. You are of course doing it for a freind in Toronto --me-- the operator of the Vanguard Bookstore. At most they can stop-you. If anyone gets into a fight--book you for disturbing the peace. But of course we dont want to get into any fracs--no matter how much we may be provoked--we just want to get the leaflet out. And if any little turmoil develops and any of your freinds dont want to get mixed up--tell them to melt away.into the crowd.

Each fellow will have to have his own leaflets so that if anyone person is stopped and involved in an argument the others are going full steam ahead. If this was taking placeup here we would have everyone in the League doing it --the more involved--the quicker the distribution the better. Of course some will dis tribute faster than others and they should have more copies . It would be good to have them folded when you start off as sometimes they xxxxxx sort of stick together and they peal of in twos and threes instead of ones.

I do not know how you should handle the Second Declaration--particularly since we have so few of them. If there were some way of sorting out the most interested Portuguese from the leaser interested we would w want them to have the Declaration

will pick this letter up in a few hours

the leaflets are arriving airmail to the above addresw

fraternally

Ross Dowson

September 1, 1965
824 Yonge Street
Toronto

Arch Callaghan

Dear Arch

I sent the other letter off as I knew that I would be interruted and wanted you to get something about the project before you got the parcel and got to wondering what it was all about.

I hope that the sketchy comments by one of the fellows here as to the contents are clear and adequate. The parcel that you will have received contains about 1,750 copies . I understand that 17,000 are expected. However while I might be quite wrong I have a feeling that we will get stopped before we could get many more than the number you will be getting into circulation and ~~xfx~~ even if you are not and could have circulated more copies, with the 1,750 you will have done a very good job indeed.

If as we would certainly desire the distribution comes off without any difficulty at all why then you may well feel free to mix around a bit slow the last hundred or so to be distributed down very much so that you can get a feel of the situation-----Some fellows may be so bold as to approach you ---from a freindly point of view--and in the belief that you speak Portuguese. You could in that circumstance hand out on a this selective basis copies of the Habana Declaration. Or then again you might just post yourself somewhere with the Declaration where persons seeing you and feeling free to approach you for a copy will do so on their own initative.

I myself think that it would be best that you do not talk around very much about what you intend to do--so that ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ can not get into the wrong ears and those who might consder stopping you would be so taken by suprise that by the time they could do much we have achieved what we want.

Wish I was there with you fellows. We of course will be most anxious to hear how you made out. Hope you can drop us a line as soon as you are able

I wont be suprised to hear that the distribution went off without a hitch and that the circulation of the lea let was like dropping a pebble in the vast ocean --no apparent response from a single fisherman Like thousands of the words that were uttered by union militar suddenly the damn broke and we organized the CIO

Then again I wont be suprised if you prove to be the cer really interesting incident and that we read about it all of Tuesdays Globe and Mail

with socialist greetings

Ross Dowson

Setpember 2, 1965

Roving Branch

Just a note anticipating that it will get you in Calgary.

Xxxx Harry's letter while containing no schedule which we need badly of course suggests to me that this letter will get you in Calgary.

Glad to get the money of course--immediately socked it into the bank.

Have sent off into the mail a parcel that you overran in Saskatoon---I did not open it but it seems to me to be the magaizne on Vietnam which should be invaluable for the film showings.

We received the parcel of subs--- both those for the YSF and for Vanguard.

We have shipped about five thousand copies of the Vanguard to you at Vancouver. Since I see you have decided to arrive there about 24 th of September I am sending you a couple of bundles at Calagary to see you through into Vancouver. If you need any more for Trail etc you will have to plan this with Vancouver which should not be hard.

We are all looking forward to Hans and Alex's arrivals--just in time for the youth and LSA conference. But not in time to help us with the Labor Day sales---which are going to be tough since so many are going down to the SWP convention.

Everyone is impressed with the meetings--- they have have given a totally qualitatively different character to the tour and in my opinion have made this tour the biggest and most impo tant tour that we have had so far

fraternally

Ross Dowson

September 2, 1965

Harry Stone
en r oute t o Vancouver

Dear Harry;

In a couple of days it will be your birth day---and mine, if I recall correctly

And how old are you---19 ?? About thet I guess ~~xnx~~ an excellent age.--and if your b rthdays have become marking points this one it seems to me is really worth celebrating--~~xnxnxbtxgra~~ worth noting.

For it seems to me that you will always be able to say that this year was an important one from the point of view of your finding yourself. Your relations with your parents, those who shaped your childhood and adolesence. have been largely worked out. And with the project you are now involved in---and your response-I would say that you have made another big decision.-----a decision that I did not really make until I was about 24, to place myself fully at the service of the revolution in whatever capacity I could serve.

I am Really anticipating your return

warmest regards

Ross

Since I typed this I have received your note from Calgary. I assume you got my letter about Ernie. I read your letters very closely--of course they were subjective but I don't think that I took them out of content. After all there is the factor of my assessment of them too. I dont think that I have interpreted them the other way--see-swaed as you suggest. I would feel badly if from what anyone has said that Hans and Alex return with ~~xmmm~~ any sense of defeat. Altho ugh I will say that I thought that Hans would not pull out right away but would see it on through to the last possible date. My letter about Ernie was truthful---without Ernie and Alex-Hans leaving and then your agreement that Lyle should leave--we just wouldn't have a return tour---very important too from the point of campus. Another point-we need someone who can get subs---your tour as with the preceding one of girls just doesn't have that kind of pperator as is apparent from the type of subs you have sent in from the West---nearly all contact and renewal subs. We need the new subs to finance the projedt. But we can talk about all this when you return. I myself appreciated your letters very much and I hope that Ernie did not give you or that Hans-Alex drew an unbalanced picutre of the project as a whole so far. All of you should appreciate that this tour with its meetings is certainly the biggest thing we have carried off yet and should congratualte yoursleves

September 7, 1965

Dear Comrades; (on Tour)

We received the letter Ernie wrote on September 5 the afternoon of the day that we received his letter written on September 1st.

Glad to see that you will be shortly sending us an itinerary. I do not think that we can send you anything by ~~firm~~ parcel post or second class mail until we get such a list . If we miss you by a day you never get it. ~~And~~ I think we need a week to be sure postage leaving here will get to you where we address it.

When I just got underway with this note the phone call came in for Bill Green. Bill V refused the call before I could properly think about it but I suppose it was no harm as there was no real emergency. Just one really and that has to do with mailing.

When Hans came off the tour up-until then everything had been addressed to him--I just automatically took to addressing material to Harry. I did not think for a moment that with the arrival of Tate there would be a change of command all down the line. I just took to establishing the status quo post Hans ante Tate. I received no instructions of any kind so I proceeded along this line. I rushed the few lines off telling you to check the P.O. for Harry's mail. I take it that Ernie's suggestion and assumption is agreeable to you. Henceforth as of today I will address all mail for the tour care of E. Tate. But you should go to the Calgary P.O. and ask for the last of the items going to the name Harry Stone.

So you are looking for bulk copies of the latest issue. Well--of course it was not clear to me just how long you would be in Edmonton and then how long you would be before you swept into Vancouver, when it came time to mail you the bundle copies. So I thought we should take no chance that we have another Timmins experience with this issue of the Vanguard I sent 5 parcels, I think it was, to Vancouver. If I am not mistaken I mentioned this in a letter to you--which I probably sent to Calgary. I think that the Mid-August issue is a good one for campus work and we probably have to count on using it for the tour back. If you feel you need copies badly for the work coming into Vancouver why mail service from Vancouver to where you are is much better than from here to where you are.

I hope that you managed to get the Timmins papers from the CNR at Edmonton before you left. If we missed again--and there is no reason at all for they assured me that they would get there in lots of time from Winnipeg---I think we should consider abandoning them.

It was certainly a suprise to find Peter on the door step last night. But I can fully appreciate the basis for the action. It was obviously a mistake that he went. Of course the case can be made that the resultant from his participation turned out to be negative--but I hope that a full run of the campuses is not too much of a strain on the three of you. From my own experience there is always a tremendous pressure to get back into the center and yet in my opinion the trip back can be just as fruitful as the one out. Hans is talking in terms of our sending someone else out to join you--possibly John Riddel however this is an added expense. I think we should do so if necessary but not necessarily do so. Peter appears to be somewhat disturbed by his leaving the project but He is quite honest when it comes to himself and I am sure he willcome out of it. At anyrate he stayed with me overnoght--I got him up sharpat 8;30--he got a room that morning, registered at UIC that afternoon and has an appointment about

a press man's job for tomorrow morning at 9.

A few of the comrades are back from the SWP convention. But John phoned yesterday from NY to know if it was ok with me if he stayed another day for a youth meeting. So I have been in the store solid now a week less one day. Too bad Hans got in so soon. We were expecting him on Thursday. I decided that I would put a day or two into the house in order to rally a bit of a work team that Stue has been unable to do all summer. We had 6 of us for Sunday---not bad considering that about 20 went up to Port Elgin and another 12 to 15 went to NY. So we deicided to rip off all the railing off the front porch---and did. Decided to paintthe porch and the house walls under the porch and the anti-room. Not the three colors---red walls with cream and green trim and gey linteis---but all cream wih gray poch floor and window ledges. Looks pretty good. So we got the hall in top shpae and the whole entrance. That is what we need for the fall activity. Then bhind the scenes we can get to the much grander job of setting up the back apartment. Hans being a natural pessimist expected nothing would be done so while we managed to do little---it was still something---before his arrival.

Labor Day went off not too bad. Jackie sold 43 copies of the paper ---and I sold 44 despite my bald head.

Yes, Harry---Send us a letter as soon as possible as to whether you would stand as a candidate for the youth executive. I think you should. As for the coming year---things stand as they did when you left. We are anticipating that when you return you will get a job in a shop with a Davidson like ours ---a small shop so that you can learn how th make plates---the whole operation. My comments about Ryerson and a printing course were entirely for Alex should he fail to qualify for any university and continue to be considering printing. Our YSF editors have been pressing and counting on if not you the employment of Tony's father and other arrangments to be worked out for the coming issue of the papaer. But all this is too complicated in my opinion and I hope that I have convinced them that we should take the next issue to Merchants and letter press---or if they want to go lithon that they should take the entire operation to some shop until we get set up here properly.

I hear that you have 70 subs from Edmonton---Dont let them accumulate of too big a scale---as you must remember we have to type up the plates.

It looks like we are off again. While up at Port Elgin we learned from highly reputable sources that there is going to be another purge from the youth. About 20 all told---and from what we know about the list---it jumps on and also over many of us and lands down on persons who are merely friendly. HS is not on the list, but ~~xxxxxx~~ George of London is along with a lesser known Ottawan, and of course Jess and Joan are. It doesn't look like they have any solid information and therefore are swinging wildly. Of course they have John L high up on the list. We were already in the process of ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ recruting 14 or 15 persons and now this of course will speed up the process. Of course it will make a tremendous stink and will further isolate the NDY but it appears that they know of no other way to operate, We will have to be launching a series of efforts along very clear and simple class lines so thtat ~~xxxxxx~~ there can be no doubt about what is actually involved---an act of suppression of those who think in terms of socialism---struggle against imperialism, support of the colonial peoples movement. The prject ithe expulsions are quite definite---probabl they will hold them off until the whole matter of the federalelction is settled. But as far as the youth right wingers are themselves concerned they probably would like to carry it off before the convention.

The left caucus bulletin is out and I am enclosing a copy for you. The back page is not open in the final version---there has been a BC item added. It is being mailed out over the next couple of days.. The FPCC bulletin has been justfied---all we need to do is put it on stencils and of course lay it out beforehand.

Ls Lutte should be off by now and in our hands in the next few days. Everyone clearly sees the importance of it and has pitched in--- as a testimony of their serious attitude they are making this issue a bumper one--with a considerable number of pages added.

But it is now 11.30 and it has been a long day. Find these days in the store infuriating--like prison--I cannot organize or direct the work to be done very well. Have a bunch of Albert Einstein's Why Socialism here for you. But I shall not ship them until I get your schedule and see where we have a week to operate on

Forums and classes are holding up regardless of conferences conventions here there and everywhere. Art is standing for Branch organizer with Pat's agreement and has fixed his job so that he will be available at the end of the month. Our project ed meeting of the left and others who seek action on Vietnam is slowly getting under way and things look good for it coming off in the not distant future.

I Found the postal workers article and the lead item on Vietnam very good items for promoting the last issue at the labor day parade. Ruth T is doing something with a woman's angle for the next issue. Havent set a deadline hutit would be good to have a columnon the Prai ie experiences with its increasingly successfuo meetings played up. You are now just about off the Prairies and so should be able to have that one item in within say a week or ten days. Looking forward to your sending it in Bill

warmest regards

Ross

September 13, 1965

Tony

Pat Mitchell
(Pat Schultz)

Trailblazers 1965

Dear comrades;

Well, you were the hit of the Toronto branch conference. I took a big peice of greenboard and made a dispaly with appropriate headlines. There were the pictures that you sent in, a big chart noting the various cities in which you held meetings and the attendance at the meetings, and then a series of colored sheets of paper with quotes from your letters--your latest. Just like those plaques that we used to have up in the hall at 81 Queen---you know the quotes by Marx, Lenin, Trotsky and Debs. Only this time they were by Harry Stone, Bill Laskov and Ernest Tate. The Stone one is that section of his letter where he commented on the gains of the past year among the youth but that ~~chicken~~ chicks to be of use have to develop into hens(he had it mixed up a bit but I straightened things a little) and his comments on the challenge that confronted us in the light of the crisis of leadership in the left generally and in our own ranks. Then the Laskov quote about the tide that is coming in which we have to catch and the opportunities existing in Edmonton and Saskatoon which we have to fibd the resources to meet. The Tate quote was from the telegram asking for fifty bucks to be sent to Cranbrook. All in all very impressive. Bea thought the quotes were even lyrical. We will be taking the display up to the youth conference ~~tomorrow~~ that is taking place next Sunday.

I thought the conference was very good. Art is now organizer. Pat as you know did not run and made no statement so I made some comments about the significance of her contribution. Very necessary I thought for some harsh things have been said by a couple of insensitive persons and then a few things have been daid by others that have to be put in t eir proper over-all positive framework. Of course the various reports registered the considerable gains we have made, the new experiences. Pat's report was heavy on the problems but of course the problems too are a result of the new gains and our moving in to take advantage of them. The executive is now. Helen, Pat, Art, Peter H, Frank G, John S, Jim O. Lyle and Peter H tied and in the first vote so we had another vote and Peter nosed Lyle out.

A considerable number of the youth attended and I gather that five or six will be requesting membership in a week or so. I told Tony about yourdesire to have yourname put on the ballot for youth executive Harry.

At the same time as we were having the conference we had Ernest Godamer down in the basement typing up one of the enclosed leaflets. This meeting we are now in the midst of trying to carry I think accurately depicts the mood of the branch--that we will be moving out in the next year--of course trying to push ,shove ,encourage, others to move out but more fully prepared to move out on our own trying to drag others along with us. The comrades are down tonight mailing copies of these leaflets out---to select mailing lists and of course the one to organizations. etc. We tried to get Feinberg onto the platform but he is nervous of us. It appears that Endocott is behind it--he said that he would do a mailing if we supplied the leaflets and I gather will speak with a YS and LSA sppkes spokesman from the floor. Of course we anticipate that a committee will come out of this and I think that it is probable that we will succeed.

winter clothing, supplies etc. In a few moments I will be going over to Sheila's to pick up Harry's green car coat. I notice that Alan left us a couple of blankets. ...

Have come back from the Steel's --with the coat, hood, socks, sweater, will be sending you four blankets, try and pick up some winter underwear. I will be shipping it off tomorrww to Trail. what about you Bill. Do you want me to pick up a short coat or anything of that type you may have---at home or wherever you have stored your clothes. Would your folks sned it. Looks like Arnie is alright with that black abd red wool jacket. I hope that Lyle is ok--probably prepared when he left home for Vancouver.
So you will go to the CN express at Trail

Received the pile of subs picked up at Calgary and Edmonton this morning.

Have pretty well decided that we should publish the Vanguard the coming two months along the same line that we did last election[illegible] press run for mass distribution. There is only one problem ---sub work ---but then we are not going to be able to so much anyway as it will be cold. Let me know what you think of this and what we can do in so far as the tour is concerned- Literature sales, pamphlets [illegible] The ISR and the YS will probably be bigger. Perhaps we should go for one more regualr issue with election heads front page and then publish two sheet issues. Yes that would seem better from the point of the tour---one issue with election leads would see you right across the country .

At anyraye I could do with something from you right away. Doesn't have to be profoundly anaalytical---all our readers are interested in the news of the Trailblazers. Good LSA building

Now twelve and I want you to get this in Cranbrook --as you will want to know what is being done about clothing.---so I will pick it up later

warmest regards

Ross

September 13, 1965

Vancouver

Dear Alan; (E)

I received a phone call from Farrell Dobbs just a few minutes ago and am writing you this note on his request and right at this moment so that I do not forget to do so.

Farrell is going out to ~~xxxxxxx~~ Seattle in the course of a national tour. He will be there at the end of October. But before going to Seattel he wants to come up to Vancouver to have a talk ~~with~~s you about the situation there--the Seattle situation that is.

It is important that you tell no one about this coming visit. He is unable to participate in any public affair that you might like to arrange. And he doesn't want to meet anyone such as Bill W or Malcolm B or anyone else who usually takes advantiage of such visits to recall old tijes or air grievances. He wants to see you in private and then head out again. He should also see Ruth and Reg but arrange it so that you have time to give him your views of the Seattle situation separately and apart. Yes, he must see Ruth and Reg of course and get their picture ---but you must also see him apart from them so that you can give you own uninhibted view. ~~Tamxhan~~ When Ernie arrives in the next week or so show him this note and have a talk with him as to your joint opinions of the situation. Tell Ernie ~~for~~ that I never did get that note that he wrote up around some specific incident off to the south. I wanted to enclose something but it got shoved aside until it seemed not so important---I will try to dig it up and send it on.

I gave him the store address and he will be writing you to affirm this and more firmly fit the date probably.

The tour seems to be going very well indeed. We just received 100 subs from Calgary and Edmonton. Havent heard about the Calgary meeting but Edmonton was a real success. Everyone here is now back from the SWP convention---and a Port Elgin NDY NDP seminar--yesterday we wound up our branch conference and now we must get back to work.

I am planning to put out the paper along the same lines as we did last federal election---I hope four issues before November 8--single sheet, big press run for really mass distributions. I want to get the first one out right after the coming weekend. Havent had a chance to thing very much about the project as a whole and what we want from BC. But off the top of my head--we would like to deal with sectarian opposition to support of the NDP ~~and~~ to explain our position within the framework of the ultra leftists criticisms. And I am thinking that it would be good to have a short article on Progressive Workers's position. All articles are going to have to be short and lucidly written. I suppose you noticed that we put your trade union note on

the Peace Arch demo to go use as a headline.

fraternally Ross

Saskatchewan (NDP) Commonwealth (monthly)

September 20.1965

Dear Dick (Ft Montreal?)

Right away

I knew that you would want to receive W.O. after such a long silence. Do you have a sub to the Commonwealth? Probably you noted that they published your letter in the last issue. Very good. I see that issue also carried a note of dissociation from the Vanguard and a hot letter from our comrade Jean Sloan. If you dont get the Commonwealth drop me a note and I will loan you ours from the file.

Well the meeting came off alright--without Hayden puting in an appearance). About 150 turned up--most of them youth--many I had not seen before. There were persons in the audience associated with the CP, with Endicott's ~~peace~~ group and other groups, but none of them identified themselves from the floor with the aim of the meeting--to set up a united front for action on Viet Nam. We had to carry the meeting--Art Y gave a excellent speech from the floor as did John S Peter H and Harry P. We had to set the tone--but for our comrades it tended to die on its feet--no sense of urgency. Because of the lack of identification from other groups we had to push the platform to take the responsibility of constituting itself as a committee--which they did. So it got off the ground but we had to push like hell. Dave M gave a good talk as did Mrs Guild--pacifist but poignant and militant. a young NDYer who had been around the right wing was inveigle onto the platform and gave not a bad talk at all--raising the issue of the elections and firmly demanding that we make Viet nam the issue in the election despite Douglas. The fellow from SUPA was by all counts the worst--cynical, introspective, tired. The Globe and Mail report while inaccurate tended to more firmly commit orgaizations and persons than was actually the case---very good. You would think that SUPA was right in there and it is possible that they will issue some kind of statemnt of denial however I think we are off. I will have to get after Dave and work out some projects. For one thing I think that we should see that every election meeting is confronted with a picket with appropriate signs. It is not clear what the teach in will do and we will consider tying in with that. But we need some dramatic project for the international day of demonstration

Our Youth conferecne came off well. I put in an appearnace--had no time for much more--at the morning session--good attendance. Sheila is organizer--and we will really be opening up on the campus this year with our added forces.

warmest regards

Ross

September 21, 1965

Trailblazers

Dear Ernie

Sorry for thedelay in answering your spetember 12 letter. I was going to try to get you in Trail however things just seemx to be piling up without let-up. I particularly wanted to take up the questions you raise about the return trip.

I do not understand Bill and Harry's opinion that the YSF is not good for campus--particularly Harry having that opinion ror I think ne was nere for the convention where they aiscussed the new rormat of the YSF. It seems obvious to me that we must concentrate on our Canadian press---and use the YS (U.S.A.) as supplementary material. The New YSF will be out very shortly--I understand that the printer has started to set the copy and that it is all in now. I think that they have worked out the format and that we should have it possibly before the week is out. I have had nothing to do with it and probably wont see anything of it until they have it pasted up but I feel confident that the comrades will do acompetent job.

I would think that the main purpose of the tour back concentrating as it does on the campus---is to establish the YSF on the national campus. as the voice of socialism on the Canadian campus.

Now I dont know how much time the campus work is going to take up and how much money we can scrounge from it on the way back --it is possible but I seriously doubt it -that we will be able to make out on campus work. Probably we will have to operate on much the same way as we did at Edmonton and Calgary--spend some time on door to door work for which you will need the Vanguard.

You are going to have to have a Vanguard that is saleable it seems to me. Even if you do concentrate on the new YSF and are not required to do much sub work it seems to me that we want to introduce the Vanguard onto the campus too--but of course not on the same concentrated basis as YSF. Well you cannot sell the election campaign sheet issues such as we put out last election drive--they are strictly for throwaways--acceptable to persons who are already subscribers but no good at all to get subs with So I am going to put out a regular issue with an election headline---then we will move into the two election sheets and more if we can manage it. We will take the sheets into Hamilton, Oshawa, Kitchener etc.

Ernie

Yeild to tempatioErnie I think we should talk about Trotskyism about Marxism --living Marxism--with its tradition, its development, its continuity. which is Trotskyism. I am certain that that is what we should talk on--and I am certain that that is what would be most attractive to students--what would give us the biggest and most valuable meetings.

So we need The Age of Permanent Revolution by L.T. and Novak-Deutcher We could do with some copies of the Marxists--C.W. Mills--another Dell pocket book. And The Living Thoughts of Karl Marx--by LT--a Premier po pocketbook I think. Alan will know. and can pick this stuff up for you I suggested this in a previous letter--that we write ahead.

I think you can put to very good use Mills' attack on lib ralism in the opening part of his book the Marxists. . I think you could use three issues in particular of the ISR---- Warde's apprecaition of Mills----anither issue containing Warde's article Who will change the world--dealing with the n ew left---and then that special issue of the ISR with the old man's photo on it titled Trotsky on America. Of course the introduction to the Living Thought of K.M. is also very useful.

Perhaps the most important recent and familiar attack on Marxism is contained in The Vertical Mosaic by Porter. Alan tells me that he has read it and has been giving educationals on it. No doubt he has underlined the attacks on Marxism in it and could point them out to you. The book of course in its braod lines affimrs Marxism. Forst opportunity I willtry to scrounge around for some quotes that you might like to use--clippings etc.

But there is no doubt in my mind we should entitle the talks something along the lines whether Marxism is dead or not--talk about the living Marxism, sharply identified as Trotskyism--and in so far as yo bring the NDP into it use that pamphlet Marx and Engels on the Labor P rty

There has been no definite word about the world congress. The minutes of the IEE came in where there are re orts of discussion on the date but they have not set one. Here is how it appears in the July 23-25 minutes Date Around the end of November. Congress to be held for 5 or 6 days. Place Walter asked that no final decision as to place be made for the time being.

The comrades who went to the SWP convention tell me that Joe is anxious that you get over there as soon as possible. I have written Joe as to what you are doing and told him that you wou d be there around the first of November

You know I havent even had a chance to read your redraft of the trade union document. I will do so Thursday night. In the meantime I am going to try to get some copy into the printer. Dick was in again and he told me that he was really going to get down to his document. Art will be getting out of his job in a week or so and that should ease things up. Cliff wants out of his tiny commitment to work the store Saturday afternoon but Pat says she will put two days a week in the store .

Peter has a job--- working as a chef's helper or something like that on the railway. He is on the Winnipeg run. Not agood job but he needed money badly--we have had to advance him considerable and I think he also needed a master badly. He also has the possibility of getting into some kind of print job. Havent seen him for a few days so I gather that he is out on a run. Alex did not make university. His appeal came through and he dropped for the count. Today he came in to tell us that he has a job working in a lab--a government lab investigating polution in the great lakes. After accepting the job they told him that after a week or so here he would be off to the Windsor area to work there until the canals froze over. He plans to work for one year and then go to school. Tried to get into some industry on the Golden Mile or Leaside but failed--but I dont think it matters for one season although it would have been good for him to have some factory experience.

As for our print shop--well Don has agreed to do the press work on the first issue on our press. That means puting it into first class operating shape--they are paying him the union scale for the running time. Was worried a while about our Varityper. When Diane came to give us th classes

on Varitype justifaction....the machine would not oprate. I hunted around for some kind of service man outside of the cluthc of Adressograph Multigraph Corporation --but to no avail. So we decided to take it down to them. Diane handled this operation. Well it sat there with Diane getting the impression that they were really not going to do anything on it because we didn't buy it off them. Just as we were going to get it back from them and I was really wondering if we could find a service man their rep came in the door. He told us that certain adjustments could be made for $18 but he wouldn't advise puting any more into it. They talked about our $850 machine as if it was worth about $50. After making it appear that we had possibilities of becoming a good acount he dropped his slighting manner. I forgot--when Diane first got it down th there the fellow sat down to it and had no trouble working it. Now we have it back and we did our first job on it for the fromt page of a FPCC pamphlet. Diane has now decided to work,to get work as a Varityper operator ---and not go to university. This looks like a real break for as. After working on our machine for an afternoon she concludes that the machine is good but that she will have to get used to a fewodd kinks in it.

I assume that Ernie got his shirts Ok. That you all got the blankets the underwaer etc for the trip back. That you got the $37 for the cheques you had sent and the other $50 that you wired for. Then the assorted material in Vancouver. I have asked Stu to send on the airmail copy of World Outlook that comes to Lyle at his place.

Enclosed is the name and address of a sub that came in the mail from Edmonton--proof of the good work that you have left behind you.

Warmest regards

Ross

September 24, 1965
824 Yonge Street

Vancouver

(E.)

Dear Alan;

Received your article yesterday afternoon post haste.

And here I am sending it back to you. I am wondering if you can work it over for this issue or will have to put it aside for more discussion and thought.

IT is indeed a problem that we are so far apart--and that I did not take time to spell out more clearly what I had in mind . It is of course a good article but to my mind it is not at all what is necessary. It is of too internal a charac er it seems to me--something for an organ of left opinion rather than a paper adressed to radical moving workers. Rather than showing toleration, understanding and disagreement with the Maoists I would say we want dissociation--particularly for ~~them~~ this issue and the rest of our election issues which are directed in a really outward way

We want to make it clear that there are no two ways about it--you have to support the NDP and that goes for everyone left and center. --we want to popularize the Leninist view as expressed in Left Wing Communism and infant ile disorder. Malcolm's article and the article on the page before are not worth taking up --certialny at this time.

But that little item--not even appearing in the actual pages of the October issue of Progressive Labor--that little letter slipped in is worth commenting on--that letter for financial aid to LeBourdais' campaign --and even more so that little sentence--"Had we more forces and finances at our disposal, we would enter the lists in other such areas of the Province.."

Truly astonishing---Not a word about the broad election issues--the character, the record of the Liberals and Tories--two dry articles on social democracy in general and then that note--- Who the hell is the enemy?

So what we need is an educational article but sharper--Leninist but ~~thank~~ in madern jargon

I think that it needs to be much shorter--about 80 lines. It doesn't justify the spcae.

Can you bang it back or should we leave it for next issue?

And where is Ernest Tate's article on the tour

fraternally

Ross Dowson

824 Yonge Street
Toronto 5, Ont.
September 27, 1965

Cliff Gunter

Dear Cliff;

I hear that you took your holidays out West. When can we expect a visit to Toronto? A lot of water has gone under the Peace Bridge since you were here last. Pretty well confined to Toronto myself and this year our Trailblazers were unable to get closer to you than London as they wanted to make the West Coast.

They are now in Vancouver after holding a whole series of extremely successful meetings around a film that we borrowed on the heroic struggle of the National Liberation Front forces in Vietnam. I gather when we obtained it the film was already in bad shape and now after over a dozen shwoings it is even worse. But we havent used up the opportunities for popularizing the cause of the South East Asian revolution for our comrades are preparing for their trip back during which they anticipate holding a whole series of meetings at various campuses.

Ernie Tate who I think you know has just written me that he saw Jack Scot and Jerry Lebourdais about borrowing another film, a newer one and in better shape that was mentioned as being shown in an article in Progressive Worker. They said that they were highly agreeable to loaning any film they had but that both films were here in the East--either in Toronto or Windsor.

I have just phoned Joe Hendsbee here and he tells me that they do not have another NLF film--all that he has here is a Chinese solidarity film. He thinks that you may well have the other film that we are looking for. I wonder if this is so---and if you are not using it over the next month would you send it on to me. We would want it for the month of October--the comrades plan to be back the first week in November. I cannot think how it could possibly be put to ~~gxxdxuxax~~ better use than what we will be doing with it--showing it on campus, to NDP meetings etc.

Incidently I have given a young comrade of ours who will be working about 30 miles out of Windsor your address. He will be dropping in on you in about

about two weeks time--and will be able to tell you what is happening in the Tornoto area these days. Actually he was on the Trailblazer project right up till they got to Edmonton so he can even give you a wider picture of things.

I wonder if you would be so good as to let me know just as soon as possible the situation with the film--as our comrades are anxious to plan out their work back.

My regards to your wife, Rose

fraternally

Ross Dowson

Saturday

Roving tour

N. Ontario

Just a note...just in case you manage to pick it up in Kapuskasing.

A little distirubing to receive a letter from Timmins dated July 29 and for it to contain only barebones minutes of a meeting a week previously --which mention that you did not have the film at that time. Agax The letter also fails to make any mention as to whether you picked up the parcels of papers we expressed to Timmins. And of course you made no phone call as I suggested in the letter enclosed with thebpapers. So we fear that you have not thought to stop in at the CN express office.

If you pick this note up at Kapuskasing I think you should seriously consider the idea of one person going back with the truck for the papers etc.

warmest regards

Ross

1964 1965/67 BC FONT TOURS

October 2, 1965
Saturday afternoon

Trailblazers;

Dear Comrades;

Got the message from Alan that you are short of sub blanks

Would have had the youth paper off this weekend but the press needed some parts and suprisingly enough the agency did not have them.

Vanguard all but off--will be off first thing Monday morning. Then will get to work on the single issue sheets.

Will write in a day or so

fraternally Ross

Got in touch with PWM here--all hearts and flowers but only have one film--a Chinese one which is so much rah rah rah. Theythink that Gunter in Windsor might have the one we want--so I wrote him at once with a self addressed envelope--but have heard no word. As soon as I do hear from him I will let you know. Fred's brother did the distribution --crwod far less than we wwre told to expect--distributed about 500---and Smallwood condemned trash and filth that comes from the mainland.

October 12, 1965

John L-?

Trialblzers--roving Branch LSA

Comrades; dear used to have a touch of irony in it but it is good to see you are self-~~xxxxxix~~ sustaining these days--or are you?with the prairies looming ahead and the high price of gas in Northern Ontario.

Well ~~y~~hu should have received a pile of material when you picked up this letter. "e have been sending everything on to Edmonton because of the tricky week-end involving Calgary. If you think you need more Vanguards wd th the NDP headline let us know at once. Incidently we got three letters over the past week from various people telling us thatbthe paper was sold to them under false pretenses. Two fo them I have at hand--- S.w. Rowles, Merritt, the other a Reverend Day--obtained by an L.Smith and a Y. Smith.

I suppose you got the Toronto papers covering the teach-in over the last weekend. It all strated out very proper--as the statement of purpose saud--not protest but"at the extreme of the edcuational pole of the spectrum". Dur John L was removed from the Mike during the question period. He launched off with an attack on American imperialism, its violations of "international law" in Korea, Congo, Lebanaon, Vietnam---and the atmosphere was still at that time so propoer that he got appaluse but also much hissing and booing. --then he tried to frame his question to the Pravda editor who proposed to solve the question the commitment of the U.S. in the UN to recognize the right of self determniation--but he never really got that far--the chair was able to utilize the mixture of confusion, indifference and opposition to have him removed. But by the final session Staughton lynd was able to talk entirely within the framweork of opposition to the US role in Vietnam and action to stop it---so in the process of three days the affair moved from dialogue--to diatribe--to a call for action.

The arraogance of one of the US apologists, a guy by name of Scalopino had some impact---then of course William Worthy, the indignation expressed by a representative of the Dominican Social Christian party, ~~Jeddi~~ Cheddi Jagan who symbolizes even though he presents the whole matter as a disagreement between gentlemen--perhpas the clareast maytyr of imperialist intervention, --the clear, somewhat Christian, and petty bourgeois opp ostion to US policy presented by Cambodia--and then Staughton Lynd's role itself---took the teach-in to a left position. The t each-in brass' decision to drop Myerson also helped and then I like to think we had some influence in the process---we

we----sold over 200 copies of YSF, sold about 35 copies of Viet-Report, sold ~~apaebathe~~ the YSA pamphlet on Vietnam, and distributed about 20,000 leaflets--~~along~~-with a big distribution of the Vanguard.

on

Leaflets--leaflets---the mimeograph machine was go all the time---the Committee on Quebec meeting this coming Friday with the editor of Quebec Libre speaking, the meeting of the Campus socialist club this Wednesady which we are designing to whip up the feeling for the Saturday demonstration. The assembly call for Saturday's demo- and the reproduction of the Berkely appeal. The Myerson meeting call under the auspices of the U ot T Socialist Club, SUPA SCM---then we got a leafelt out for the Teamsters and continued a few other projects. Used up well over 20,000 sheet of newsprint.which we picked up late Friday--nothing left Sunday night.

Well we will get a picture of the impact of the teach-in by the response to the action appeal this Saturday. It will be a trifle confused. We have been dragging SUPA along and the CP too. But SUPA apparently insists on having its own rally even though everything is slated to come together at the consulate where a bunch of Americans will be

demonstrating(SDS)$\frac{3}{4}$ As SUPA has come in and out of the United front comittee that Peter and Hemblen and Middleton have been carrying so has the CP. The Maoists have been funny too--

Have just mailed off to Saskatoon 200 copies of the YSF which we hope you can really push on the campuses on your way through . Too bad we did not get them into Edmonton but we only got the rest of the press run here today (Tuesday) If from responses at Saskatoon and Regina you can see you can use more--let us know at once --

Perhaps we can get things going with the Sloan girl promoting the YSF in Edmonton. It seems to me that Colwyn Williamson presents us with some problems. After our last visit he never ever corresponded with us--and I am positive that I sent him a couple of notes--Bloom did. I send him internal material and then after a period we received some kind of notice, it wasn't a letter from him, and I am not sure what it was but it was to the effect not to mail any more . I am almost positive that he let his sub lapse--but you would have a record on that. I was hpping to have an opportunity to check back but I am almost positive there was a report in the Commonwealth not fur back of a pseech he gave which was completely reformist, and if I am not mistaken it was on some aspect of the colonial revolution where it is of course easiest to take a revolutionary position. All very vague. If we had someone who was part of our cadre in Edmonton I know that we could set up a very valuable relationship with Williamson. I dont doubt that he considers himself one of us and with a real collaboration through an able comrade he would probably become one of us. But it is just that situation that we do not have. On the basis on my admittedly not well gounded impressions if we went through with recruting him we would only have difficulties and possibly end up with a terminating of relations because after all we have to assume responsibility for his actions even if it was generally not known taht he was one of us.

Is there an NDP club on the campus--probably there is. If there wasn't it would be good if he were to set up a Socialist Club. This would permit the discussion of serious questions on a theoretical plane--it would be a Marxist club--which when it wanted could apply itself to the Canadian scene by connecting in with the NDP. But if there is an NDP club he could set himself up not only as a vigorous supporter of it and with his prestige give it a socialist direction,but even set up a supplementary socialist study circle.. The Sloan girl could get into the midst of this and I under stand she has a few connections too. So what we could have through the our work on the campus---not the LSA but through correspondence between socialists who are working in the campus area--the correspondent of the U of T socialist club -- a working relationship. Here it would be a matter of exchanging experiences and trying to co-ordinate activity in a certain area which would allow us to feel our way political --it would be a coolaboration which could be developed into a common understanding and common discipline of a Bolshevik relationship.

You will be in Edmonton at a good time---I suppose something is being done in response to the Berekely appeal either Friday or Saturday. Glad to know you have a Gestetn er on board. I think I sent you the Sloan girls address in Edmonton. But here it is again-- S. Coral Sloan--10610 83rd Ave--she has a friend there where she might be if you cannot get her at home---Mrs Pat Patrick 10922--93 St. Edmonton

Here is what I have noted down I sent you--probably forgct a few--- airmailed a package of Vanguards to Calgary, Sent 2,000 Vanguards vai P.O. to Edmonton, sent a letter to Calgary with a letter for Harry from NFLD, airmailed a package of YSF's to Calgary, sent 100 YSF to Saskatoon. Everything I have sent was sent care of E. Tate.

I was hoping to write at greater length however I have had nothing but disturbance ---the strike situation is rather ticklish here--you have probably read about the teamsters wildcat---Had to spend three days at the teahc in--wrote it up for the Militant but havent yet had a chance to rewrite for the W.O. And of course I am trying to get caught up on the papers for the election sheet which I had hoped would be out this week but certainly wont be

warmest regards Ross

October 18, 1965

Roving Branch

Dear Comrades;

Received Ernie's note this morning and have rushed off airmail to Regina in care of Lyle Severin three pounds of Vanguards, a batch of sub blanks and World Outlook --Inknow you will want the material on Guevara particularly.

I hope that Regina finds you catching up with some Vanguards---the 2, 000 sent to Edmonton--or something heading in from Alan. There is another confusing factor John Riddell tells me that Lyle has left the tour again for some reason and wonders what this does to our picking up material at post offices addressed in his name. At anyrate since there were no other instructions in your letter of this morning I am continuing to send material in Lyle's name.

As a bit of a safe guard I put up in the corner that this latest package to Lyle had been send by Ernest Tate, General Delivery Edmonton---so that possibly Ernie can claim it if Lyle has really left the tour and the post office wont come across on his name. Possibly Lyle is only ducking the campus affairs

Too bad you did not have a chance to visit Art Gray in Kamloops--he did not send his Kamloops address onto to you as I asked him until too late. But he learned of your having been there from a small item in the daily paepr that the RCMP had instructed you to come to the city hall and that you didn't turn up and probably have moved on from that fair city with your "subversive" literature. I see you have been hiding your various brushes with the authorities from us-just so we won't get frightened.

Glad to hear you have been having some successes with meetings. A sub came in today from the enclosed.

The October 16 affair here was a big success---the G and M said 800 but many claim there was double this--I think about 1,100. The press said the Toronto International Vietnam Day Committee meeting at city hall was 300 but I think 200. Art spoke in our name as most of the speakers were youth and the CP didn't even turn up. Non exclusion, freedom of slogans and literature circulation was established and we held a meeting at the youth house that evening addressed by me attended by over 80-- it was packed- Peter H carried on with a social at his place so we hit both ways. Made contact with some Sparticists who seem to be worthwhile and probably will be linking up with the Committees to End the War in Vietnam which will be holding their convention over Nov 25-28 in Washington. Middleton made some stupid remarks about sabortage which I see the daily press is going to make much of.

Finally got the FPCC bulletin off--and many other minor matters--so now can get on with my own special responsibility--the paper.

warmest regards

Ross

October 23, 1965

Roving Branch

Dear Comrades;

We received that tired letter from Lyle---hope he mannages to get in here alright despite Saskatchewan gumbo. Jim Woods is anxious to pull him into the Davenport campaign which has apparently fallen onto our shoulders. The right wing who took over the executive, exluding the opposition has opted out of the campaign. I dont know whether I told you that the majority of the executive didn't even want to run a cana- candidate but Jim pushed it through with the aid of Bury and the entire provincial and I suppose you could say national office of the NDP. Jennifer has really moved in along with Dave and Ian . The CP elements have moved in behind Kashtan who is running there--with Dave Ferry I take it from Ian openly decalring his CP affiliation

We also of course received all the information about your extremely notable achievements in Edmonton-----and then a little later in Saskatoon and the good news that Byran is heading this way with you. On the basis of the response you got in Edmonton we are already talking about our moving in there---and I think we may well be able to do so sooner than we had thought. Glad to see that you must have got the bundle of YSF--- for your note tells us that you sold more than you would otherwise have at the Saskatoon rally. Looks like the way back is conforming to all our highest anticipations eh.

The airmailed Vanguards to Calgary arrived here this morning after going through the mill--from there to Vandouver and back. I hope that by now you have come across ~~them~~ more Vanguards with the vote NDP Nov 8 headline on it. You mention getting a smallish bundle from Vancouver --I wonder if you have the 2,000 yet thatbwere sent to Edmonton. In the bleif that you may not have got those I am sending 100 to Winnipeg and another 100 to Sault Ste Marie and another hundred to Subdury.All these are addressed to Lyle. I hope if he has left the tour that he has left you some identification. The next Vanguard will be off Monday in all probab- ility and the following one about Thurdday and I will mail them out on the basis of your schedule --Saulte St Marie--Noveember 1 Sudbury Nove 4

Alas the Militant did not carry the teahch-in article that I satyed up until 3.30 Sunday night a few weeks ago to get off to them. It didn't make the previous issue and due to our holiday tie up in the mails and I gather they did not think it suitable for the latest issue a copy of which I enclose. I see they carried the report I sent in of the Toronto demonstrati- tion. Dont fret--when I thought it wouldn't make the Militant I sent a version of it to the World Outlook. But perhaps it wont make that either as it seems that their schedule has slipped ~~[illegible]~~ and they may think it dated in view of the demonstrations. Karen is writir an evaluation for one of the campusc papers so you may see something on i yet.

The Tabata project in the New York area is going great guns. Getting TV time, meeting all kinds of valuable people forming

We are trying to get this hour has seven days or the Berton show to invite him up--but so far no success.---we have agreed that unless he gets such sponsorship and thus such border crossing protection that he will not probably come up here. We will see. Anywya from the latest letter from England that is where he should go and would have the biggest impact---the African emigre circle is massive and the interest in SA high.

Got a big social underway here tonight--the first of this seasons dances with live music. We were trying to stall it off for your arrival however the halls are not too available and we got the Teamsters hall on Trinity for tonight. Dont worry we will look after you when you arrive--just give us the hour

Suppose you saw that the teamsters went back. Well the wildcat which ebbed and flowed achieved one of its purposes. McDougall and Hoffa lost their control of the negotiating committee and the demnds are back to where they originally were. Remember Dennis Champaigne--well he was workir at Direct Winters---Jimmy Howell8s old barn and has come through with flying colours---there is $1,000 dollar charge against him along with 5 others but it looks like this will be dropped. The Hamilton local was the power house in the strike and I think we will be able to make some contact with the leader there a guy named Taggart. One of McDougall's former boys and right winger--a business agent has broke and it looks like we may be able to build an effective caucus through him. As you know McDougall over the oast few years has been successful in cutting out all the old leaders we had been building except for one fellow at Inter-City which played the key role in the Toronto area along with Direct. Right now Harry is trying to pull a caucus together on a more firm basis. This business agent seems to be moving along and with Taggart's help we may well be able to jell something. Behind our back we are holding a big stick---the CBRT is interested. Unfortunately Harry's bana--the key oronto barn--Smiths never budged all during the ebb and flow of the strike. We are trying to bring Howell into the work and I think we will be able as he is still a big influence in Direct. Intercity fired six and I think we can focus some effective and unifying action around them. A very tricky business

Perason will be in here next Wednesday and Douglas next Thursday so we will be very busy as you can imagine. Bill N hasn't come in yet must be enjoying the balmy breezes out there. Birks hit town yesterday and I had him working away on the mimeograph machine--today he was going to fix the floor in our can here but Hans pulled him over to the YSF house.

Why dont you phone in now from time to time. Use the Bill Green devise when you think it might be useful or direct when you think it necessary.

Looking forward to your arrival---as no doubt you too are.

warmest regards

Ross

October 23, 1965

Vancouver

Dear Alan; (E.)

Sorry to be so long in answering your important letter of October 3,

I must be a an uncreative slump right now--cant seem to find time for many matters--of course as Jean says in her note yesterday you and it goes for us too are generally busier than for a long time.

But here goes on some of the matters that are most urgent. And ones that I took to the PC a couple of nights ago.

Gert Raisen ---there is no reason why she should not be recruited immediately. ~~Then Raisen~~ Ken Raiser quit the movement--utilizing a little incident around the closing of the Malton aircraft plant. We called for the nationalization of the plant and its re-tooling. Raisen insisted that we had to call for workers control but we said that it was not an ssiue so he prcolaimed it a principle and left. Gert left either at the same time or perhaps a little later but she left when he did and under personal pressure. I do not recall her identifying herself wi with his view---and she just dropped away although ~~making~~ maintaining personal connections until she left to go back to Australis. We all he here have a very warm recollection of her--he enthusiasm, her seriousness etc---she will be a real addition to the branch.

We have recorded the information about Ken G's appraoch to you in the minutes--for the record ~~of~~ expressing the view at this time that we doubt its seriousness and noting as you are aware that this is an NC matter. We dont think that the N.D. should give it any formal recognitic for instance by writing them or anything along this line. So this now putsyou in a position to say to Grienves if it is anything more than a little bit of gossip to say to him that you have brought it to our attnetion ,that we affirmed you opinion that it is an N.C matter and that they now should make a formel approach if they have any intentions this way. Perhaps you are unaware but Grienves went to some trouble to document his own attitude to the League. I do not have the document at hand but I can pull it out if you would like. The others as you know just pulled away. If it is a personal action on his part and not one from the Whitney group it might well prove to be that--then we might well confront him with his document. Probably nothing at all.

I have raised the question of this Makella and am waiting to find out what we can about him. ~~But~~

Just while I am on that the question of Tabata comes to mind. I noted that he was listed as appearing in Vancouver. This was suprising to us here as we had adopted a line that we would deprive ourselves of the pleasure of any activity for him here in toronto in light of the passport problem. From a letter from NY I see they have some doubts about the adviseability of his crossing over and then back a- ... -- be the case in Vancouver, the--

consulted Brwwin's office. this office tells us that there would be no proper grounds for stopping him but mention the Sibley case. their opinion is that you dont know what can happen--and if something unfavorable does happen there is the problem that by the time you may be able to strighten it up shecdules and obligations get broken. As things now stand unoess we can get some prominent program like This Hour Has Seven Days to bring him in and thereby give him lots of cover we are not encouraging him to come in for any public activity. Possibly the NY office will wrote you shortly. At anyrate before you firm up anything I think you should write New York. I m ight say that his visit so far has been a big success, He has met and very favorably impressed some big figures in the Negro left--it appears that Sweezy is considering publish ng one of his books.

about

I will let you know just as soon as I hear from anyone anything I get about Makeiia

Glad to hear that you have receuited J.M. I must get after Frank to fill her in on future plans here re the Alexander Committee.

The convention..... We have been expecting Dick in here now for the last ten days. to tell us how two of the documents--the ones that he and Mike have been working on are coming along. This is the problem documentation. While Ernie was here he finished off his draft---we had several long discussions came to many agreements and then he spent another several dvas on it. Jerry disagrees with its character. I dont but think that it needs to be polished up. We had a long discussion and John and Jerry are going to go over it again . But as you can see this document hss been held up. My two documents are not ready. About three weeks ago Dick said he had made the breakthrough and would have his with him when he came in. Mike alsoassured us that his was coming along. A bad situation but of course this is the decisive one as far as a convention date in concerned. We must have 90 days for pre-convention discussion.

So here is what we have decided. To set the convention date for the Easter holiday weekend. To set the dead deadline for documentation here in toronto the Tuesday after the New Years holiday.

I fear that Montreal is attempting to write definitive documents on a complex matter. It may be that in order to move forward we may accept something slightly less than definitve and use them to open discussion.

Sorry about this and all the troubles that it has caused for comrades like Nick. We are not announcing this formally yet but you should tell Nick and anyone else trying to adjust holidays etc.

Re the Vanguard. As you know we have been tossing this matter of increased frequency around for a couple of years now. For your personal information the P.C. is recommending to the National Committee that it now make preparations so that the com ng convention will be in a position to carry out the project of publishing the Vanguard on a twice monthly basis--by next fall. It has been before us for sometime but I feared that while we could certianly put it out that it would so tie us up that we wouldn't be able to really use it--we would become a paper--and that was all. But the last year not only in Toronto and Vancouver but in Montreal and I am hoping shortly in Edmonton has seen sufficient growth and widening connections that it has become a real responsibility and a necessity. This also is for your own personal information. John probably wont get the minutes out for several days and even then we want to hear what the NC has to say before there should be anything said to the branches. etc.

The Britannia Beach development is a big one and a credit notonly to the comrades immediately involved but the entire branch. Sorry that I didn't think to bang back a congratulations in the name of the NC to the branch.

There are a host of other matters but I wanted to get the above off right away

I suppose the tour sent word in to your about the Merritt situation for the Mine Mill comrades' information. Did they tell you that they had 350 students at the showing in Saskatoon and that Brian has joined the tour

Warmest regards

Ron-S

1 Cumberland

October 27 ,1965

Dear Alan (E.) (Vancouver)?

Have just ~~SHOVED~~ off in the mail 3 parcels of the first single sheet of the Vanguard--totalling 1,000 copies

Will have to write younat length later but I used the A. Emery name as I ended up with such a little amount of your original article that I thought that you might take eaception to having your name on it---particularly if you disagreed with it ,if there was any error in it ,etc.

I thikn if we mention PW at all we have to do it in some detail---from an educational point of view---and I thought that their position on the election gave us an opportunity to tell people just what our position is. So to with the CP item and the BLP. Without our writing up an article explaining ourselves I thought these three did it for us.

as I say will write later

thanks for the material on NDP electioneering. Will make good use of it.

fraternally

Ross

October 27, 1965
1 Cumberland Street
Toronto 5, Ont.

Monika Triest Apt 3
31 Waggoner's Lane
Fredericton, N.B.

Dear Friend;

We received al letter from Karolyn Kerry of the Militant She informs us that you would like to make contact with some active socialists. ...and so she has put us in contact with you.

Under separate cover I have sent you a copy--rather several recent issues of our paper The Workers Vanguard. I havel also sent you a copy of the Young Socialist Forum which is put out by a youth group having the closest of comradely relations with us. In the possibility that you read French I have also sent along copies of the last two issues of La Lutte Ouvriere put out by our co-thinkers who live closest to you--Montreal, Quebec . And last but not least I enclosed a copy of the statement of the Socialist Caucus in the NDP which we are very anxious to encourage.

So ,as you will see we are active socialists alright. Our only real regret is that we are unable to put you in contact with effective socialists in your own communnity. The Maritime provinces are just about our weakest point of contact. But we did conduct a tour down there a couple of years ago and as soon as I get an opportunity I will go through our lists to see just what we do know about Fredericton and the surrounding area.

I hope you will find the Vanguard of interest. It is the press of the League for Socilaist Action. We are revolutuonary socialists whose main orientation is towards Canada's labor party formation the New Democratic Party. We have received your note at a good time for with the federal election underway it would seem to us if you have not already drawn this conclusion on your own you should make a real effort to make contact with the local NDP campaign. Even in areas where the NDP is quite poor, almost nok activity and in the hands of petit bourgeois types-at election time working class types are drwan in and in fact doors even opened--and that hold true for socialist minded elements also. that is as long as theyrestrain themselves from expressing their views. But of course there is also some variation too--and it is by no means excluded that the NDP in your community contains militants.

I would suppose that our best introduction is the considerable amount of material that I have sent you. I might ad however that we also run a bookstore here in Toronto with an excellent assortment of socialist material. If you have anything particular in mind let us know

Looking forward to hearing from you

fraternally
Ross Dowson

November 1, 1965

Vancouver;

Dear Alan (E.)

Re your phone call about the PWM assault of Phil

Because ~~mf~~ it is apparent that you are thinking in terms of immeidate action I am sending off to you my ~~thoughts~~ first thoughts without having had an opportunity to discuss the matter over with anyone other than the Toronto branch organizer.

I think that we should immediately in the next mail (registered) send off a letter to the PWM. It should be an official letter one organ~~k~~ation to another . The letter should formally protest this incident pointing out that it took place in their hall(I suppose) the dicipline of which they are responsible and involved a known ~~pe~~ non leading member of their movement. We want an apology, an official one and an assuarance that this will not happen again, that we are not going to witness such a situation as was experienced back in the thirties

I feel that this is the correct course. We dont want this kind of hooliganism, we dont want to carry on such a struggle with PWM involving involving our setting up somekind of defence organization etc. We wan want them to be able to step back, to apologize and find a way out from this type of thing.

This is quite different from what we were faced with in the 30's with Stalnism. At least I hope it is. These things just didn't happen then denoting a hostile and touchy relationship---terror against the Trotsky ists was a line openly and consistantly fostered by the leadership of the CP. That was the way every good CP member was to meet any Trotsky ist--hit him on the head--even kill him.

I dont think it can even be prarlelled to a recent incident in the US where the Marcyites tangled with the SWP. That incident took place in public and was a public attempt to suppress an action that we were promoting in the public interest. I gather that this took place in the PWM hall and involved an individual with whom Phil was having an argument. No doubt about it they have been creating a ~~pro~~ hostil atmosphere against us, provoking their own people and of course what they say about us in that article on ~~th~~ Cuba is certainly provocative. But this as I understand it developed out of an arguement and in itself could be an incident--what we are interested in is seeing that it doesn't happen again.

~~No~~ ed CP terror against Trotskyism block discussion on the main is issues amongst the most important layers of the working class. If PWM goes on some kind of jag against Trotskyism along this line all it will do is break its own neck. It is going to prove quite unable to stop us from getting our views across and it will only discredit itself. I dont think we have anything to gain by getting into some kind of pushing and shoving match with them. They are not a force in the BC labor movement and cannot in anyway block us from going about our business, cant isolate us or anything like that

I think it would be a mistake on our part to get involved in some kind of public protest--to put a leaflet out. CCF militants and others who we are trying to influence may feel indignant that one of us got beat up and look with disapproval at PWM but I feel that there will also be a tendency to look at it as some sillyness going on amongst the obscurantist left. It discredits them--but I think that it tends to discredit us alos. The protest will mxk be understandable if PWM had such a policy I suppose but even then with PWM being so small it becomes hardly a matter of public concern--the public wont even know who we are taling about. and such a group would hardly be subject to public pressure

Yes as I continue this letter--I am convinced that it would be a real mistake to put out a leaflet--to publish it in our paper--certainly at this time. Yes--we should send them a formal letter of protest demading an apology and assurances that it wont happen again.

Let's see how they handle this. Let me know--and we may reconsider

Hope Phil is none the worse for the fracas--I take it he didn't get hurt more shocked than anything.

Yes, I do not see any reason why the French couple should not join the LSA in Vancouver. If they want to function as revolutionary socialists where they are I do not see why they should have any hesitation. When they get to Montreal then they should join the LSO. Even if they were separatists as long as they are revolutionists it seems to me that they can only function as such with the LSA out there. They dont even have possibilities I take it of working with "emigre" circles out there. like Lenin had in Switzerland--besides asylum traditions prohibited one from xxxx

November 6, 1965

London, Ont.

Dear George; (2)

Gerry Healy of the British Socialist Labour League met a comrade of ours a few days ago and told her that a Tom Kemp ,one of their members is now teaching at the University in your city.

As you know Healy ~~xxx~~ with his sectarianism and unprincipled factionalism has done the world Trotskyist movement a great deal of harm. You can imagine the effect that a completely united Trotskyist movement could have on all other tendencies--however Healy's group has decalred an unprincipled and unbeidled war against the majority of the movement. His position of Cuba is a scandal and of course jeopardizes our relationship with the most vital revolutionary currents in Latin America particularly.

I do not know why a leading SLLer would be here in Canada particularly in such an out of the way university--not in Toronto for instance. Possibly Healy looks upon his professor's as money makers and has them sending considerable sums back home.

Kemp is an economist---one of themajor publishers has recently announced a work of his called Imperialism. He is a man of some ability although quite inarticulate. I do not think he has anything to offer us--in fact I think we should be leary of him---the latest issue of their paper called upon the M.P.'s to vote the labor party down to defeat. I am sure that he would disagree in actuality if not formally with our orientation to the NDP--so if we strated to get him to move out what little we could get out of him would be largely cancelled out.

However I think you should know that he is there. I think it would be worthwhile to go around to see him, have a talk with him. Introduce yourself as a member of the LSA ,tell him that I suggested ~~xxxxxxx~~ you see him. Kemp knows me. Find out what he is doing and what he intends to do--it might be worthwhile finding out if he is prepared to speak at the campus groups or anywhere else. Dont commit yourself but just find out what the score is---and let me know.

fraternally

Ross

824 Yonge Street
Toronto 5, Ont.
November 8, 1965

Mantrie Kariyawasam
261 5th Ave. Apt 6
Ottawa, Ont.

233-2994

Dear Friend;

An associate of mine--a John Riddell--came across you recently in Ottawa while visiting there, He tells me that you are from Ceylon and have been in cotact with the Lanka Sama Samaja Party there.

I had the pleasure of meeting and having several lengthy discussions with Colvin De Silva when he was here two or three years ago and me met many Ceylonese socialists when I was in Europe, in London a couple of years ago. We have always received copies of their publications and at times have carried on extensive correspondence with them.

We publish a paper here called Workers VANGUARD, and as the League for Socialist Action carry on extensive activities in the unions and in Canada's labor party, the NDP, for a socialist Canada. A youth group, called the Young Socialist Forum which has many connections across the country, including Ottawa, is our counterpart in the youth area. In Montreal, there is the Ligue Socialiste Ouvriere, which pb publishes La Lutte Ouvriere---our Quebec homologue.

I am sending under separate cover some sample copies of our pb publications. I hope you will find them valuable and will take out subscriptions. Do you ever have an opportunity to get into Toronto or Montreal. La Ligue Socialiste Ouvriere has its headquarters at 66 rue Guilbault O. Should you not speak French ,no matter, many of our Montreal comrades are English-Canadian. In Toronto we have a store attached to our headquarters--a bookstore. We hold forums evy every Friday night. We would be very pleased if your were able to come in to make our acquaintance.

fraternally

Ross Dowson

November 15, 1965

Vancouver

Dear Alam; (E.)

Received your note on the BC Federation

John Steele attended the Ontario Federation and made a very fine speech on Vietnam which got good publicity. I figure that we will cover that in the coming issue so perhaps it would be good to cover the BC federation also

Can you wirte up or have the comrade who attended write up a short story and have it in here right after the com'ng weekend.

But then perhaps you have something you think is more newsworthy?

Whatever material you decide most suitable I would like 3 or 4 pages right after the weeokend.

From here it looks like there is nothing of particularyxx note on the BC aspect of the elections. We are having a general article along woth one on Quebec which is the only significant breakthrough for the NDP

Will write later

fraternally

Ross

The Montreal comrades are having their conference November 28 unless wesucceed in getting it postponed--it would be good if Vancouver sent them fraternal greetings. Ernie is leaving tomorrow night.

1 Cumberland, Toronto 5
December 1, 1965

S
(21

Dear Brian

I was happy to receive your invitation to speak at the St George Socialist Alliance. We have been talking here for sometime now of my making a speaking tour and now with the excellent results of the Trailblazer tour in Edmonton and Saskatoon it seesm extremely necessary. The tpoic we were thinking off is pretty much the one you suggest. We have made general plans to work out that tour sometime after the New Year and the reopening of the school term.

Since I would like to be able to give an effective speech and I am extremely busy right now I would like to take a rain check on your project. Right now I am working on the paper which got badly delayed dueto the Teamsters situation here, Art's week long project in Washington, and other matters. As soon as we get this out I want to push the next issue out--then I have as you note told Mike I will come down the weekend . I was planning that project tightly as we have also to work on a couple of documents

Probably a couple of speeches in the nextterm would be more effective anyway as I understand from the Toronto campus comrades that everyone is busy right now with tests.

Right after the New Year we plan to send a form letter through our connections to anyone and everyone so that we can work out an effective tour and I intend to take a week out to work up at least two effective speeches. I am sure you will agree that this would be a more suitable arrangment.

I note your letter says that I would be coming into Montreal the weekend of the 11th for "some pre-conference discussions." I had the impression that the 11th was going to be the date of the conference itself. Much as I would like to attend any and all discussions you would be planning I really want to attend the conference itself. I wonder if you would check with Mike to affirm whether the 11th is the actual conference and let me know. If it is to be a week or so later I would intend to shift my visit to coincide.

fraternally

Ross Dowson

Xxxxxxxx December 1, 1965

Vancouver

Dear Alan (E.)

Yes, certainly we will place the general strike article on the front page

I wanted when starting this letter to tell you my views on the general strike situation as it was developing in B.C.---I ddd a bit of studying independent of your article in order to carry a forum---however I see if I do not send this off right now yuu wont get it before the weekend...and you want to know if we can handle an automation item.

Yes, go ahead with the article on automation. We will find the space.

Will write to you on other matters over the weekend. I gather you must have got the bulletin on parti pris. It would be good if you were able to make a contribution to the discussion. Had a discuss ion with Mike on the basis of a preliminary copy and told hmm that I disagreed with an entry into parti pris' MLP although recognized it is the major area for our work

fraternally

Ross

December 7, 1965

Vancouver;

Dear Alan; (2)

I have intended to write this off to you since I received your article and prior to that your leaflet on the strike situation---and If I do not do it right now xhithe even though I have little time and to give it the proper thought I had better do it or it wont be done.

I hope that you kept a copy of your article. If you did you will I feel sure that the cuts were actually more than just for space--there is a disagreement between us.

I gave the forum on the strike situation the Friday after the Wednesday 12 o'clock deadline. In the process of really going through the press clippings it struck me very forcibly ,the impression that is --that the general strike threat was really only that--I did not sense that any real preparations had taken place--in fact the suspicion grew that the Federation proporse general strike in order to block the oilworkers from pulling out all bil workers across the province and thereby facing the rest of the BC labor movement which has always been strong for solidaruty and over the years pushed and shoved around by Bills 42 and 43 with a xxxxxxxx very embarassing situation and possibly a hot one. The impression grew that in reality they pulled this idea out of the hat in order to forestall an unilateral action by the oilworkers more or less confident that faced with this danger that the government would put the heat on the oil bosses to come across with something.--for of course a general strike posses consi able difficulties for any government.

I came across a clipping qhich quoted a statement by the head of the Fed's general strike committee in which he said that he was wotching the oilworkers closely so that now armed with this powerful fighting tool they would not dig in their heels and prove unwilling to seriously consider and practical offer from the companies. That is roughly as I recall he was quoted. The oilworkers as you know were moving to pull the pin across the province a week before---so the Fed proposal gave Bennett a week's grace.

The Teamsters action was presented by the press here as a body blow to the strike possibilities. The Globe and Mail edit warned against the strike and advanced the view that xxx such an action would drive the Bennet regime to pass more restrcitive legislation. against the unoon movement. I recall really devoting considerable space or rather time to ridicule this--what more restrcitive legislation could possibly be imposed on the BC labor movement--and I went to some trouble to explain what Bill's 42 and 43 are--Ernie xxxx had some figures on the decline of the percentage of the workforce in BC that are organized now---I dont have the figures at hand but it is a phenomenal shrinkage. I explained how labor reacted to these bIll's and how the brass stopped a general strike back then when there was considerable favor for it--how submission has weakened the unions and the power of the CCF- NDP as it was designed. I specualted that there were no doubt calls for asing this strike to settle with 42 and 43 now----I think Jackie got a note from Penny quoting some statements to this effect made at a labor council meeting in all probability.

Yes I think that the TEamsters line was a body blow--cause if there had been no general strike--the oilworkers would have come out across the country and the unions would have been faced with calling all oil hot

almost no
nyway.I noted ~~xx~~ general meetings of ~~xxxxx~~ the various unions to preapre anyone for a general strike. I think that I noted somewhere that the Fishermen ~~xxx~~and possibly Mine Mill were brought in to hear the news and walked out in protest that they were given no say. Interesting to see how quickly the Bennet fofer was bolted down by the union brass and dallied by t es. Of course I am in complete agreement with your views that even with this talk there is a changed situation in the BC labor movement--that it has raised the level of militancy of the ranks

But to get to the article.

....

I changed your wordss "attempts to..to destroy the oil workers union were defeated..." to were frustrated.

~~xxxxxxxxxx~~---of course all settlements are a compromise to some degree so I changed this to "-settlement was a poor compromise " I cut the details of the settlement ~~xxxxx~~ strictly for space reasons and so as not to slow down the tempo of the article. It seem to me that they are not too important and I feel they really do slow up things.

I felt that we had no purpose to say that the settlement in our opinion was an honorable one. The Oilworkers can say that--but we are dealing with a general strike situation. In fact at the time of submittin it to the printer it was not at allclear that we ended up with a settlement ---havent seen anything in the press ~~xxx~~for a while but the last thing I di see was that the oil bosses were holding back

~~xxxxxxxx~~I left the statement by the Sun columnnist that "Bennett could slaughter the unions with legislation in because that is his opinion---but I took it out in the next praragraph because this idea is there expressed as our opinion. I just dont see this---as I said above--in fact Bennett would find it impossible--inexpedient to enforce the bills already on the books which would be outraged and violated by the general strike of 24 hours---of without the general strike---if the oilworkers had gone ahead and ~~xxxxx~~ won all kinds of rank and file support in violation of the law prohibiting sympathy, solidarity strikes

I ~~x~~ut out the part on the Teamsters top of page six becuase the fact that they did not support the general strike was it seems to me unmistakeable a blow against its success

I took out your statement that the ITU has been sunk--re lacing it with has been going down

Now for a few words about the leaflet. Of course it is good, very good to see how quickly Vancouver can mobilize and move out in a situation.

But I have a criticism---and my main criticism is that it goes off the general strike too quickly in order to grind our own axe--the case for the 30 hour work week. Of course I am all for raising this demand but it seems to me that the leaflet does not give enough to the strike itself. I would have been inclined to play up the significance of this proposal which is a decision to violate the rotten anti-labor laws as they are being forced down upon the oilworkers---the need to unity--the promse that lies in unity--the need to really prepare it on a big scale, the need for every union to call a mass meeting of its membership--all we heard here were reports of big wheels who were not supporting it. Mobilize the ranks for the strike, win the sympathy of the unorganized, ~~xxxxx~~the women, the old age pensioners--mobilize the entire people. Demonstrate against the

government--show how it is a political issue--then I would raise the matter of where we go from here---from the 48 hour action.--~~xxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~the need to start the use this mighty solidaruty of labor to force the repeal of the anti-labor legislation hanging over the oilworkers which we have all now violated and exposed --to use it to launch a massive campaign for the shorter work week

What it seems to me you have is an excellent leaflet on the need for the 30 hour week--automation and the answer.And not a leaflet on general strike, a real situation that was building up and our atitutde towards it our hopes, its possibilities

Of course I am not on the scene but it seems to me that the possibilities of smashing the anti labor laws is quite important.

Hope you got the 1,000 Vanguardsok.

You havent told me whether you want the Bowkers Bokks in Print yet.

Teamsters situation is still moving favorably. We have had a hard time pushing for a caucus---this Saturday it looks like we may well be able to pull out a first meeting.of a caucus. We have two Teamsters on the inside. Harry and Dennis--with Howell on the outside trying to call some of the shots. The ranks are moving but there is the constant threat of trusteeship over us.

We are also involved in some maneuvers which look like they ill jell into the formation of a united front of the anti-war forces in the area. Thursday night sees the second session. I will have to tell you about this first chance.

This weekend I will be going down to Montreal to participate in the discussion on Mike's document. I am hoping to express a firm educational opposition to this "entrist" proposal so surrounded with conditions that it amounts to liquidation--in a movement which seems to me to be somewhat unstable. There will be heat and I hope to be the one who keeps it down

But it is one twenty and tomorrow I must work on my contribution as we will be having the document for educational

with socialist greetings

Ross

December 13, 1965

Bourhis-Mike Mill

Vancouver

Dear Ruth and Reg;

It has been indeed good news about the situation ~~xxxxxxxx~~in Vancouver that we have been hearing about lately. And Alan it appears certain now will be coming along with Connie. For a period it looked like he might have difficulty in getting back into Canada from England but Ernie dropped us a note a few days back to the effect that all the difficulties had been strightened up. Ernie is settling in and probably you will be hearing from him shortly.

We are doing not too badly in Toronto these days. Organizer Art gave a short report last meeting---we have 58 members--17 of whom are in the youth movement too. There are about another 20 in the youth. Things are changing very well from the point of view of establishing important new connections also. We now have I think 6 delegates on the Toronto and District Labor Council and another too coming along in a month or so and possibly three. This has given Hugh a lift who was going a bit sour. One of the comrades is a senstivive and effective speaker, John S ,and is having a real impact on the council.

But the purpose of this note was to give you a bit of a picture of the situation in Montreal. I assume you have been wondering since you received the Bourhis document urging entry into the MLP. The document was presented to the Montreal branch a couple of weeks ago but there was no discussion until this last weekend which saw five leading Toronto comrades including myself go down to participate. We had had a discussion in the Toronto branch the previous Wednesday where I was pleased to see that the document won not one word of support.

We had quite an intensive two day discussion. At the opening of the second days session Mike withdrew the document.He decided that he did not want it voted on . His given reasons were that there were obvious difference over the characterizations of the MLP --and the document was insufficient in this respect. And there were differences in this respect not only among those who ~~oppose~~ the entrist proposition but those who supported it. There were also differences over the objective situation in Quebec --it had been pointed out that we were here attemtping to decide an important tactical question without having adopted a political document.

I think that this was the best resolution of the question at this stage --but we did not leave things there either. We agreed upon 6 or 7 prpositions that not only stop the drift towards entry into the MLP--- dissolution of the LSO but project the LSO much more outward than ever before. These suggestions hinted ~~xxxxx~~ at in some comments by myself were presented by Mike and added to by others. We have agreed to increse our forces in the MLP and also to start acting as a fraction, to increase our sales of the paper (La Lutte) in the MLP, to constitute a campus fraction, to commence classes under the name of the LSO in English ,to

to sell the paper at the Universite de Montreal, the Montreal labor council --in essence recognize that there are French-Canadian workers who are not at all attracted to the MLP but can be attracted to the LSO, to sell it at any number of meetings where we think there might be an interested audience, to publish some basic Trotskyist works, to sell the Vanguard---they got three subs in the mail from the 800 odd they distributed to the Douglas meeting in Montreal during the elections.

We also had an informal discussion on LSO-LSA relations. Perhaps you will recall that Montreal unilaterally declared itself to be the Quebec section of the FI somewhile back. For a while we have h d a rather touchy relationship with Mike giving strong suggestions that the relationship was firmly settled--that they were autonomous etc. We now have an understanding that they are operating as a branch of the LSA and that we will open up a serious discussion on this matter with some conclusions being drawn at our convention. Dick made a contribution based on a draft statement that he intends to present to the PC next meeting

I think that it is obvious that Mike's document fials to make a case for entry into the MLP--at best it makes the case for a serious concentration of our forces and attention to it. In view of the weakness of the case one tends to wonder what lies behind it all. I think that in their impatience to sink roots into the Franch Canadian, the Quebecois left our comrades have lost their sense of judgement--of what we are, the forces we now have--and just what the MLP is at this stage at least. I wasn't impressed by the picture drawn of the MLP ky in Mike's document and I am even less impressed from my visit. There are of course some excellent elements--but as a movement the MLP appears to me to be very unsteady--rather than a fusion of all the best left elements more a catch basin. The short time we were there--three leaders of the movement resigned from Parti Pris and they expelled 6 members. On the other hand--while they do not yet have a paper of any kind(only an internal mimeographed bulletin) and were projecting publication of a monthly we learned that they are ready to swing out with a weekly, operated by a four man staff ealry next month. Yet when they come to cirulate their leaflets at factory gates in the mornings--our few comrades constitute the core of the activists. Not only does Mikes document in my opinion reveal strong liquidationist tendencies but our whole operation down there over the past four or five mo months has

The discussion was a very healthy one--everyone was pleased, particularly Mike who of course before our arrival knew that both I and John W were opposed to the entry proposition. There are other complications in the picture Dick F will of course be pulling out late next summer to return to Toronto and Osgoode Hall. We are intending that he go to Edmonton ear y this year and see what can be done to consolidate something there. Bob H now tat he has been refused citizenship wishes to return to the States and get working somewhere in a hot spot for the SWP. He intends to leave within a month or so. Probably we will be sending a leading comrade down from Toronto for at least three or four months shortly.to help fill up the gaps that Dick and Bob leave

The pressures there are considerable on us--but the opportunities are very good.We have met with modest success in recruiting English speaking workers and we have some very good contact with Quebecois.

I understand that Alan is working on a document to contribute to the Montreal discussion. You might show him this note. In fact I am wondering what you think of bringing Alan much closer in on PC-NC affairs.

comradely Ross

December 21,1965

DearAlan; (E.)

Got you letter the other day with your contribution on the Montreal discussion. I gather since you make no mention of it that Ruth and Reg did not turn over to you the letter that I wrote them shortly after returning from Montreal. I wonder why---is it possible that they have just forgot to do so? I sat down to write you then I thought that it would be bad to tell you all and not tell them--after all they are elected members to the NC. So I wrote them and suggested that they turn the letter over to you to read. I hope that it is only a metter of forgetting to do so. Do not say anything about the letter.

At anyrate since you had said in the previous letter that you were going to send me a draft of a contribution on Mike's document I thought that the letter was of some importance--possibly cause you to not proceed in this way. With Mike's withdrawal of the document--that is from the point of voting --it hardly becomes a useful thing to argue over. I had a talk with Dick and we agreed that I would not submit the contribution that I had roughed out but since the document was there, had been circulated and it was not clear what its historic fate would be that Dick should finish off his document. He had a large portion of it already polished, several pages on stencils when we arrived--and read portions of it in the discussion.

Mike will be dismayed from your document. I have only scan read it ---i will study it over the weekend. It says many good and important things but the discussion as we carried it in Montreal was much more inhibited more cautious. Some of the things you said out loud we suggested, implied. for there is a big problem--bigger than Nike's arrogance and vanity...and that is the entire national question. Unfortunately Mike's does not deal with this adeuqqately but this is in my opinion really behind his documents. The first thing to note is that we as yet dont have the broad strategical document and here we are dealing with what is a tactical matter--but it is motivated by the national question.

Mike could write in all seriousness and have Brian all geared up about this English MLP because the fact is he does not see any role at all for English speaking comrades who cannot get right into the French melieu and integrate. Not only does he sees no function for them---they are in the way--and at best can serve as "apologists" e"explainers " for the real forces--the MLP

I was strongly tempted to sya some of the things you say about the MLP. The documents that Mike wrote was a significant contribution if only for the fact that for the first time I felt I had an accurate picture of the MLP. I was astonished to see acutually how small it is, what limited cadre it has, rather than a coalition of all the previous groups it is in reality it seems to me a sort of catch-basin. Mike's position has such conjunctural characteristics that even as he writes something he says it is out of date--in discussion is considerably restricted

It was apparent during the discussion that Mike and Andre have a different appreciation ~~of~~ even of the MLP. An incident. On Friday night I happen to overhear that three leading elements of the MLP--or was it parti pris--have resigned--over some article that appeared in the magazine. Sunday after Mike returns from a meeting he tells me that they have expelled 6 members of the MLP. I suggested perhaps dropped--no expelled because of stupid childish ultra leftist movement compromising actions. Bob talls me that he is doing a lot of distributing for the MLP---they are puting out leaflests of some gneeral type to various factories. One morning the organizer of this project phones Bob to pick up some of the guys(Bob Silverman) away over on the other side of the city. Bob suggests what abo t another fellow whom they know and who ~~xxxx~~ lives on that area---the organizer says that this fellow has missed two appointments and that the two most reliable fellows on this project are Bob and another fellow Dick Sidler. I havent yet seen these leaflets

~~Examine~~ There was one aspect of your document that I thought very good--a line that I developed in my contribution---the importance of our movement-- While Mike is profoundly interested in the history of our movement who has become so engrossed in the MLP and the need to Quebecois our movement that he has lost sight of our movement... and in fact dismissed it. I thought Andre who struck me as a very honest comrade was somewhat shaken up by the few comments I amde about the problem of building a revolutionary cadre, our experience in this,our history, our essentiality,etc.

It iscnot clear to me just what Mike intends to do now. When we left he was nursing his wounds you might say. But the latter part of the discussion saw him bounce in. Perhaps the most important session we had was late Saturday when comrades present a series of questions as to what we could do as we are now constituted. These questions themselves showed that the difficulties of work, that defeatism of a sort was a primary factor in Mike's orientation and its attractivity for other comrades. Sunday afternoon saw Mike move in with a series of proposals that put the group as we are now constituted into high gear again---selling La Lutte as the Universite de Montreal which I was suprised we were not doung, to the Labor Council and other prjects.

In the next 24 hours Mike got to thinking about all this and the fact that he knew and had actually encouraged Bob H returning to the US and Dick F going out to Edmonton. A few days later he wrote me a lengthy letter attacking me for sinking the branch. On the way back from Montreal I opened up a discussion in the car about the problem of giving Montreal some help in impeleneting the deeisions--about sending someone down even if only forv a short time. After a while Pat M raised the matter of her going down for say three months. Last Sunday the executive agreed to Pat going down right after the New Year for a period of three months.

It is possible that Mike will take up your document. Before you respond to his rebuttal I would appreciate it if you would discuss the matter with me. Dick is now well along with his document on Quebec which is after all the key document. We really want the discussion to hinge on this document...not the proposal of entry which is not at all put in Mike's document.

I have been interuppted several times in the writing of this note--- The question of the NDP has not up until been seriously considered by the Montreal comrades ---for the reason that it has not yet taken on organizational form in Quebec. But it is obvious that they really missed the ball and were

totally unprepared for the election results which you will see were all the more significant when you read the next Vanguard with Cliche's report to the the Quebec Federation of Labor. I dont think Dick even appreciated the significance until I got him to write the article for Vanguard. It was the English speaking comrades who covered the meeting. They sold alomst 100 copies of La Lutte and distributed about 800 Vanguards from which we got three subs. Bob was instrumental in this xxxxxxxxxxxxx . I am waiting to see La Lutee and its coverage of the NDP vote and the QFL convention. Partipris 's comment on the election was absurd--no evaluation of their policy of abstentionism, passing refernece to the NDP Quebec vote trying to make out that it was English, etc.--when they came second in several ridings in Montreal that are by no means English

Glad to get all the information about the General strike preparations which were not at all mentioned in the press here and of course which your article for various reasons did not cover. I am not sure how we should deal with this information---xxxx it doesn't actually figure in on the Vanguards coverage--for I left your article pretty much as it was. It has to do more with what I said in the forum. Perhaps We will leave the matter by simply reading it to the branch as information.

Re Mine Mill-Steel. The new issue of the Vanguard in covering the Sudbury vote raised the whole matter that it is time for the militant to tak up the appeal by Steel to come in to Steel so that we can fight the bosses --and points up to the fact that there is a powerful and organized oppositio force in Steel against the Mahoney leadership in office in both Hamilton and in Sault Ste Marie. We challenge, ridicule Nels Thibault's response that Mine Mill is still in the fight in Sudbury and in passing refer to the lousy contracts that the latter has been signing whose sole justification has been that they kept Steel out. That is fine for dealing with Sudbury but of course where we are involved in Britannia the situation is much more complicated. As far as the Unionist is concerned I doubt that the editors should say anytbing on Sudoury---perhaps a letter to the editor would be xx

The Mine Mill certainly has been able to build a powerful feeling of loyalty in its ranks for itself--and it is probably stronger in BC than anywhereelse. This compells us to be very careful. Yes, I think that it is very i portant that this coming Mine Mill convention should see the Britanni Beach delegates very clearly express their views on key and simple issues such as the NDP--this one particularly. I do not think that we should get into the Sudbury dispute any more than to say that the issue should be close there now. It would be bad for us to appear to be partisans for Steel--and of course to even try to straighten up the record plays into any forces that would like to make out that we are somekind of disployal infiltrators -steel agents in the ranks of Mine Mill. Our best position is to real democrats.

sufficient--that is if we feel for some reason that I am unaware of that it is necessary for the Unionist to say anything at all.

I think we should try to get out of the position of as xxxxx office holders in Mine Mill having to be partisans. I would think that Steel is going to move in--if not in Britannia into Trail. All it needs to do to find substn ial support under most circumstances is to make a few moves. In such a situation where it would be obvious that there is a genuine feeling for support of xxx Steel then we should take the position of democratically resolving this matter by a vote

I do not think as office holders that we are required to give what might be called leadership on Steel vrs Mine Mill or Mine Mill versus Steel.--- for I do not see what principal is involved. Of course we are not going to be munchancers in the whole situation. We are going to speak out against any redbaiting and it seems to me we would take a position as the discussion ensued-----as the discussion ensued,emphasized--- an important factor is our conduct would be to see which way the militants in Britannia itself are tending to go. ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ Do the bulk of the militants align for Mine Mill----are the redbaiters and hoosiers going Steel. I think that such an alignment is less and less likely to take place. But if it did commence to take place then we would have to be extremely concerned about the health of the local as a local, our tactic would have to be sensitive

I find it hard to believe that Steel having made such a sweep at Sudbury is not going to move in on the BC locals where it has already made headway. Of course it may take on some other local than Britannia Beach first--probably Trail. Therefore I think that the question of Mine Mill's viability ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ is not so important--this is probable to change.

Incidently I got a note from Connie and Alan the other day. It was mostly about the ~~xxx~~ arrangments for Tabuteau--he will be going to England to move right into the exile circles and they will be arranging things. I dont have the letter at hand but I seem to recall that she said that they will be leaving England for NY sometime in February--will stay there for a while--then come on to Toronto.

But this letter has now spanned three days and I must get it off Received the New Years invitation a few days ago--well John will be with you shortly to help you launch the new yearx off with our fullsome support

comradely

Ross